やまじえびね
yamaji ebine

インディゴ・ブルー
indigo blue

透明感のある絵の中に
熱い思いが込められている、
痛いほどリアルな恋物語です。

あなたは、
女の人に恋をしたことがありますか？

——斎藤綾子【作家】

やまじえびね
yamaji ebine

インディゴ・ブルー
indigo blue

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やまじえびね

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インディゴ・ブルー
やまじえびね
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ISBN4-396-76293-3

C9979 ¥933E

雑誌54924-28

祥伝社　定価：本体933円＋税

やまじえびね好評既刊
『LOVE MY LIFE』
限りなくピュアな、
いちことエリーの恋物語

フィールヤングは
毎月8日発売！
FEEL YOUNG

9784396762933

01-0178287

インディゴ・アワー

やましえひね

まんだらけ

フィールコミックス

0101117500 0100017

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祥伝社

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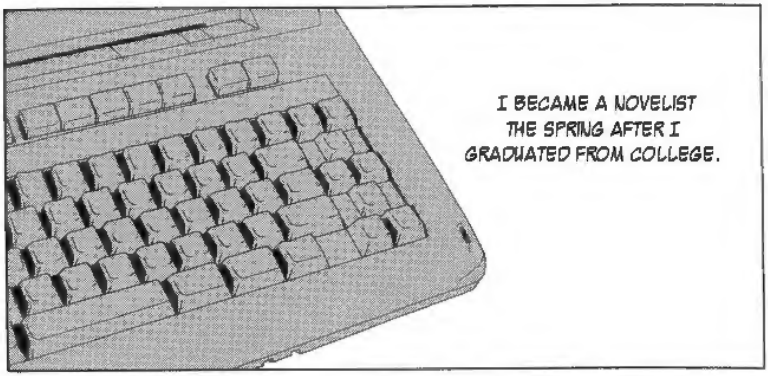
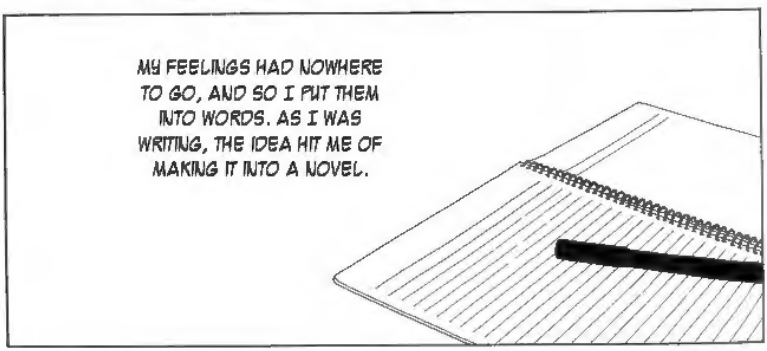
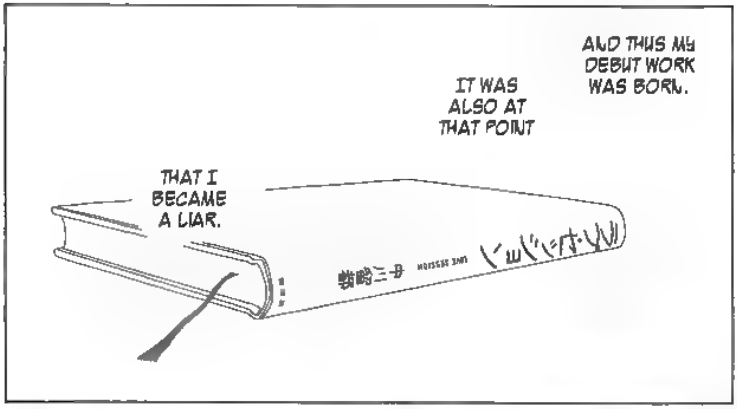
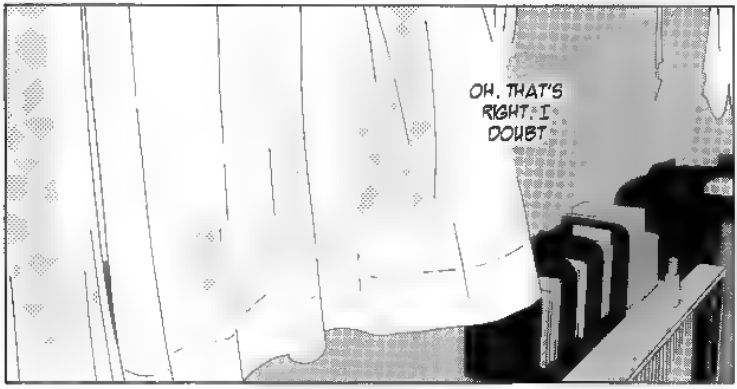
Chapter 1 "Y"


I BECAME A NOVELIST THE SPRING AFTER I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE.

I FELL IN LOVE IN COLLEGE;
IT WAS A LOVE THAT I COULDN'T EVEN CONFESS TO ITS OBJECT.


MY FEELINGS HAD NOWHERE TO GO, AND SO I PUT THEM INTO WORDS. AS I WAS WRITING, THE IDEA HIT ME OF MAKING IT INTO A NOVEL.



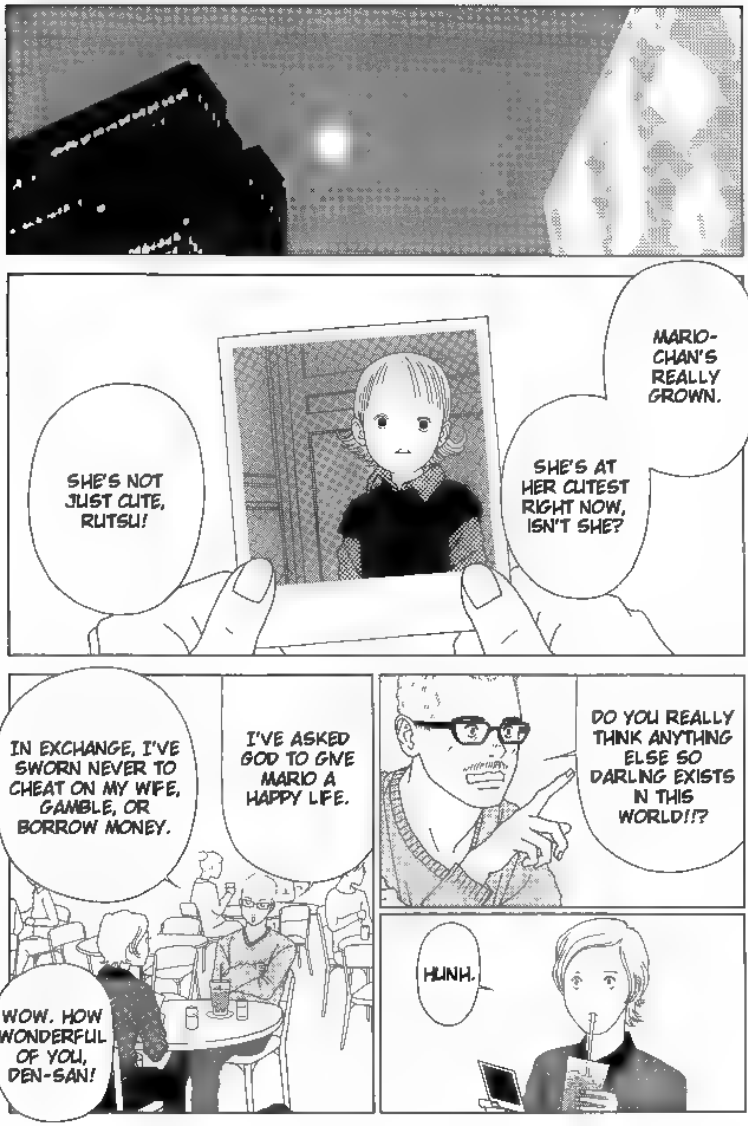


ANYONE ELSE CARES ABOUT THAT.

WHY ARE YOU MY EDITOR?
IT IS TRUE THAT IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT I STARTED WRITING FOR THIS MAGAZINE.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WRITERS USUALLY AVOID THEIR EDITORS, DON'T THEY?
I WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT.
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DO IT?
BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WHY NOT?
I DON'T PARTICULARLY FEEL LIKE TALKING TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP. AND BESIDES, I ASKED TO BE YOUR EDITOR.
STOP
JOKING AROUND, RYUIJI.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR WRITING. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO CAN DO IT.
I'M TELLING YOU,
IT'S THAT SORT OF SELF-CONFIDENCE THAT WORRIES ME.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE A PRO.
AND SO AM I.
SO YOU CAN'T WRITE WITH ME AS YOUR EDITOR?
WHAT I WRITE DOESN'T DEPEND ON WHO THE EDITOR IS.
IS NAKAGAWA RUTSU THE NOVELIST.
WHEN I'M READING YOUR WORKS, THE PERSON I SEE
NOT THE RUTSU WHO SHARES MY BED.

LET'S GO FOR AN AWARD, RUTSU.
HUH?
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE YOUR DEBUT. IT'S ABOUT TIME.
WITH YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES, IT'S DEFINITELY WITHIN YOUR REACH.
YOUR BOOKS WILL SELL, AND YOUR NAME WILL BECOME KNOWN.
MORE PEOPLE SHOULD READ YOUR WORKS. MANY MORE.
AHA-HA.
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!


MARIO-CHAN'S REALLY GROWN.
SHE'S AT HER CUTEST RIGHT NOW, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S NOT JUST CUTE, RUTSU!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYTHING ELSE SO DARLING EXISTS IN THIS WORLD!!?
HUNH.
I'VE ASKED GOD TO GIVE MARIO A HAPPY LIFE.
IN EXCHANGE, I'VE SWORN NEVER TO CHEAT ON MY WIFE, GAMBLE, OR BORROW MONEY.
WOW. HOW WONDERFUL OF YOU, DEN-SAN!

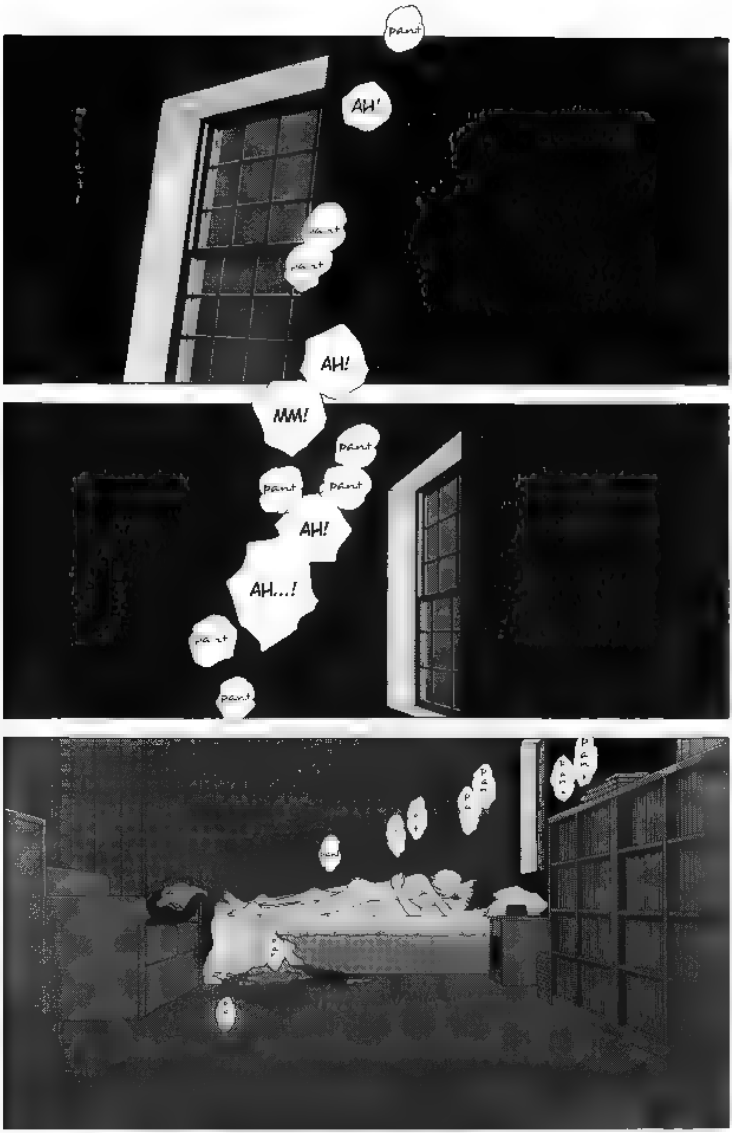
BUT IF I HADN'T HAD MARIO, I PROBABLY WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE THAT VOW.
SORRY, GOD,
IF I BREAK MY VOW, MARIO WILL BE CURSED, I'M SURE.
SIP
ACK! THAT'S SCARY.
MARIO-CHAN MUST BE THE HAPPIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.
OH?
OH.

ARE YOU HERE FOR A MEETING?
NO, JUST KILLING SOME TIME.
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU HAVE A SEAT? I'LL INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS THE WRITER NAKAGAWA RUTSU.
WHAT?
RUTSU, THIS IS YANO TAMAKI-SAN. SHE'S AN EDITOR FOR THE ART MAGAZINE *NERVE*.
MY CONNECTION TO RUTSU IS THAT I DID ILLUSTRATIONS FOR A WORK OF HERS THAT WAS BEING SERIALIZED IN A MAGAZINE.
THERE'S A SEVEN-YEAR AGE GAP BETWEEN US, SO IT'S STRANGE HOW WELL WE CLICKED.
I JUST FINISHED READING ONE OF YOUR BOOKS YESTERDAY, NAKAGAWA-SAN.
HUH?

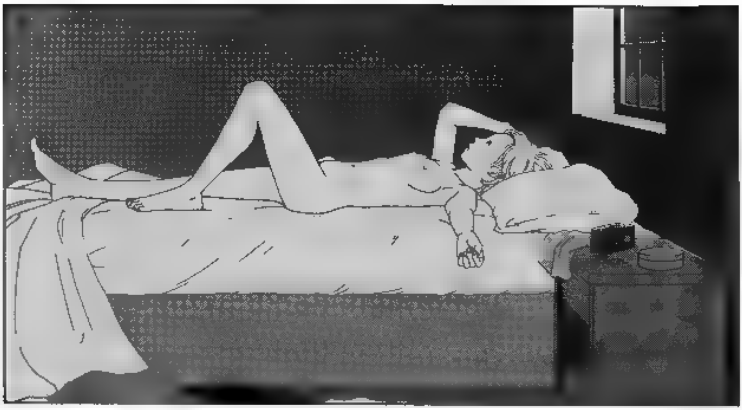
YOU KNOW THE SECOND STORY FROM THE END, "A BRIEF MOMENT"?
ABOUT THE ONE-NIGHT STAND BETWEEN A TEXTILE-DYEING ARTIST, Y, AND A FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENT, RIGHT?
SO WHICH ONE WAS IT? HER NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION?
YES.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
"AS Y TOUCHED MY BREASTS WITH FINGERS STAINED DEEPLY WITH BLUE AND SUCKED ON MY HARDENED NIPPLES,
I FELT AS THOUGH MY LEGS COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT ME, NOT FOR ONE SECOND LONGER..."
YEAH, THAT PART WAS GOOD. GAVE ME CHILLS.
WHAT!?
IT'S A STRANGE WORK. THE READER IS NEVER SURE WHETHER Y IS REALLY A MAN.

YOU DIDN'T NOTICE? Y IS ALWAYS CALLED "Y."
Y IS NEVER REFERRED TO WITH A PRONOUN. THE WORD "HE" NEVER APPEARS, NOT ONCE.
WELL, I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO THAT.
UM,
COULD I SEE YOU AGAIN?
I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU A BIT MORE.
OH, IT'S LATE ENOUGH NOW.
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
IT'S A TREMENDOUS HONOR THAT YOU WOULD ASK, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. I'M SORRY.
AS YOUR FAN, I'D BE HAPPIER TO JUST REMAN A READER OF YOUR WORKS.

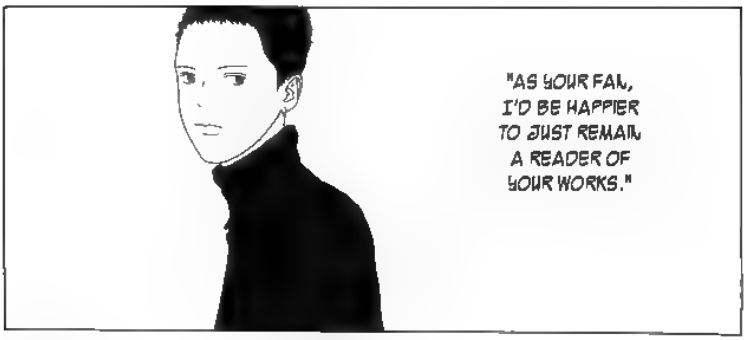
THOUGH ALL I REALLY KNOW ABOUT HER IS THAT SHE WRITES FAVORABLY ABOUT MY WORK.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HER, REALLY.
IT SURPRISED ME A BIT TOO.
SIP SI P
BUT THERE REALLY ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO READ A WORK.
MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T COME UP WITH THE IDEA THAT A WORK LIKE THAT WAS ABOUT A SEXUAL ENCOUNTER BETWEEN TWO WOMEN.

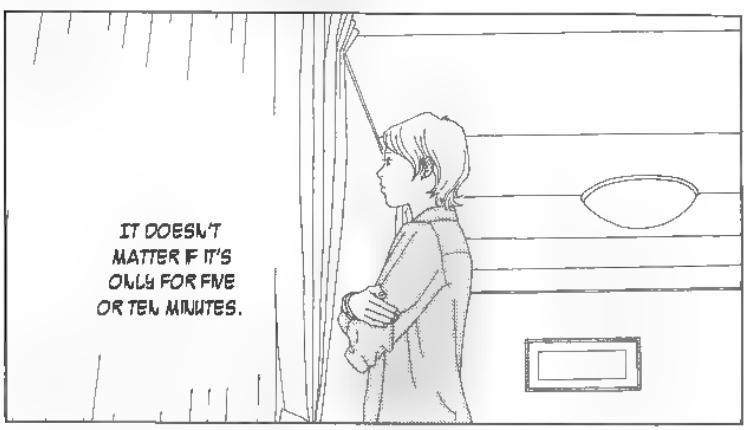

pant
AH!
pant
pant
AH!
MM!
pant
pant
pant
AH!
AH...!
pant
pant

AFTER WE HAVE SEX, YOU TURN YOUR BACK TO ME AND CURL UP.
DID YOU KNOW, RUTSU?
THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON EVER SINCE OUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER.
LIKE SOMETHING PRECIOUS TO YOU HAS BEEN DAMAGED.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A SHOWER.

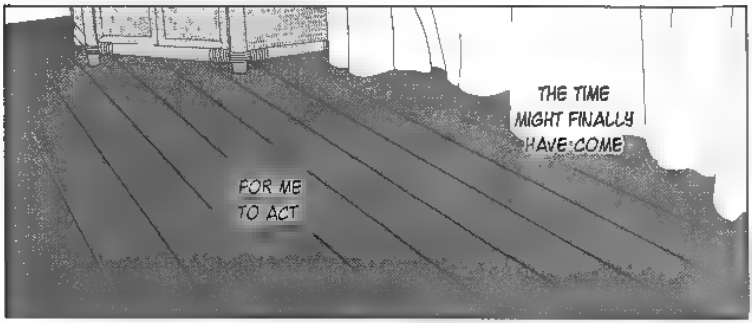


NERVE
YES, THIS IS THE *NERVE* EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
YANO IS CURRENTLY OUT, AT AN APPOINTMENT
I SEE. I'LL CALL BACK LATER THEN.


"AS YOUR FAN,
I'D BE HAPPIER
TO JUST REMAIN
A READER OF
YOUR WORKS."


IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF IT'S
ONLY FOR FIVE
OR TEN MINUTES.

I WANT TO
OBSERVE
HER MORE.



I PONDERED
THAT FOR THE
TWO DAYS
FOLLOWING
OUR MEETING,

IN A DAZE.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 1

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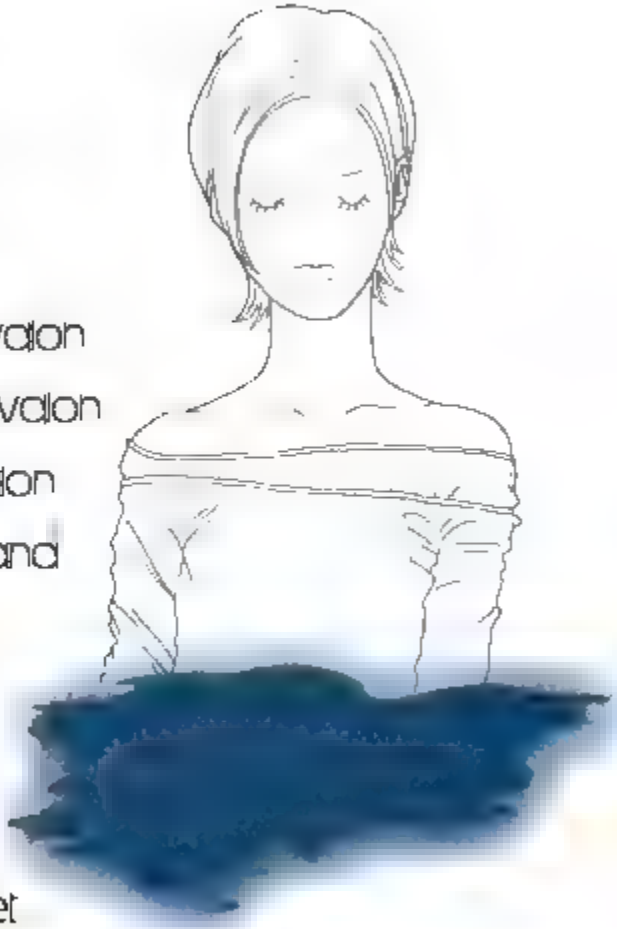
Translated by Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW



A _lilicious Project

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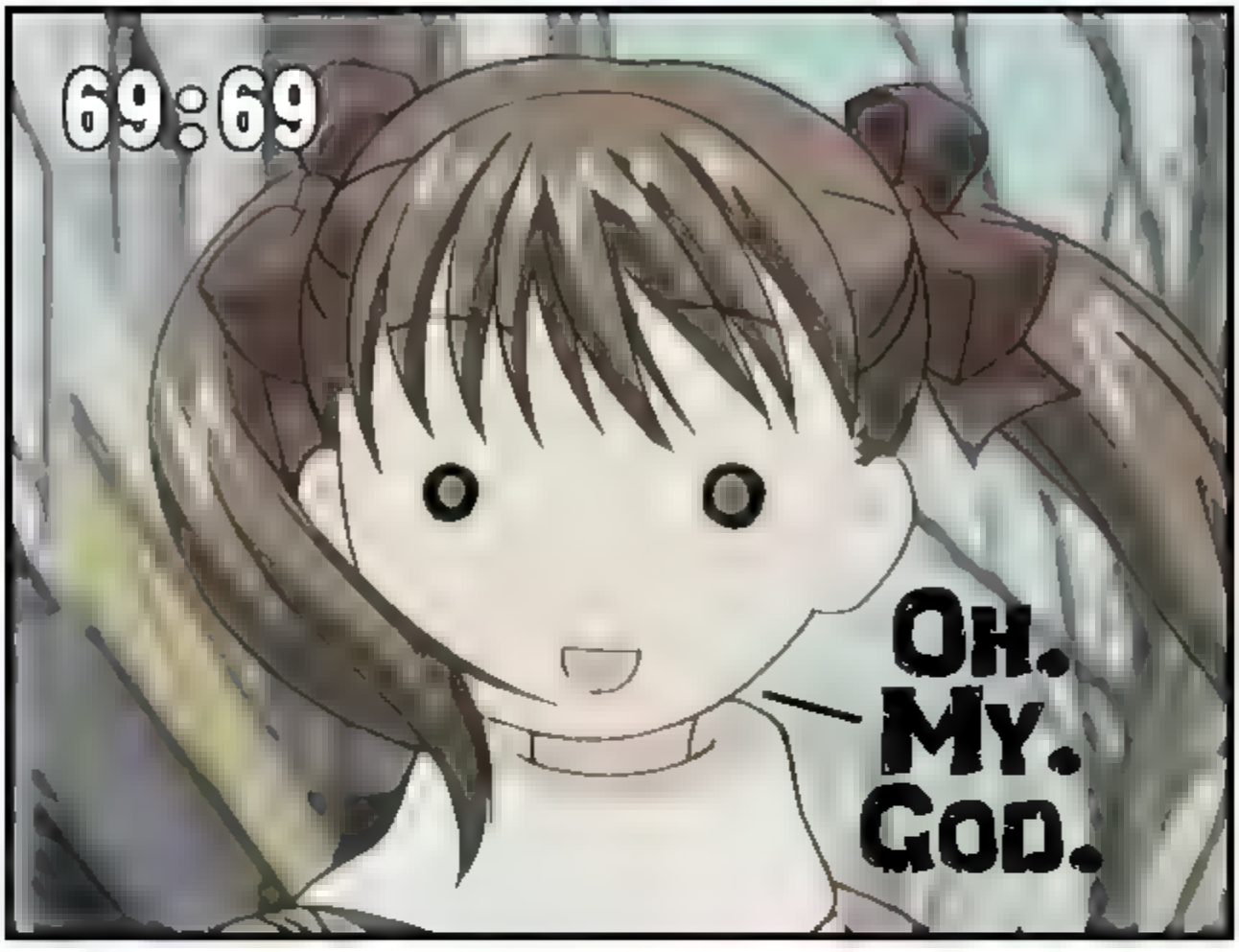
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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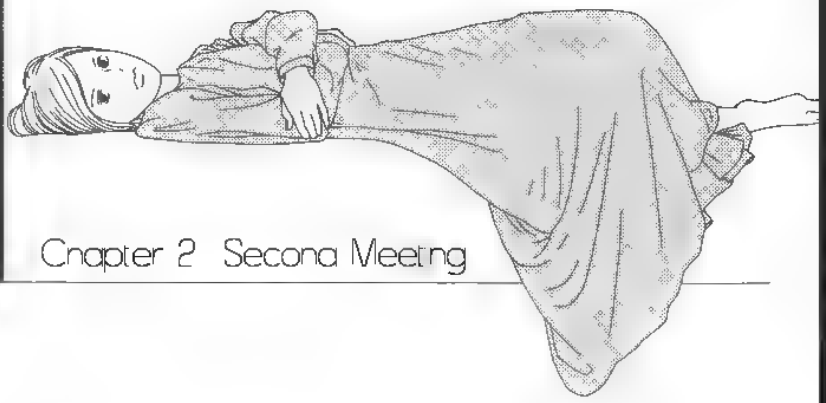
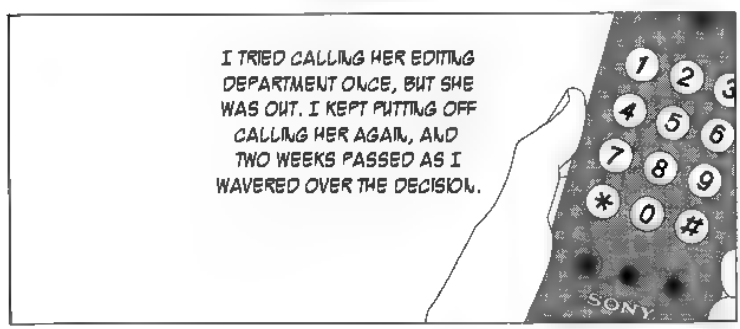
The following scanlation contains mature content. By proceeding, you are acknowledging that you have read and understood this warning, are aware of any applicable laws in your place of residence, and take full responsibility for your own conduct.



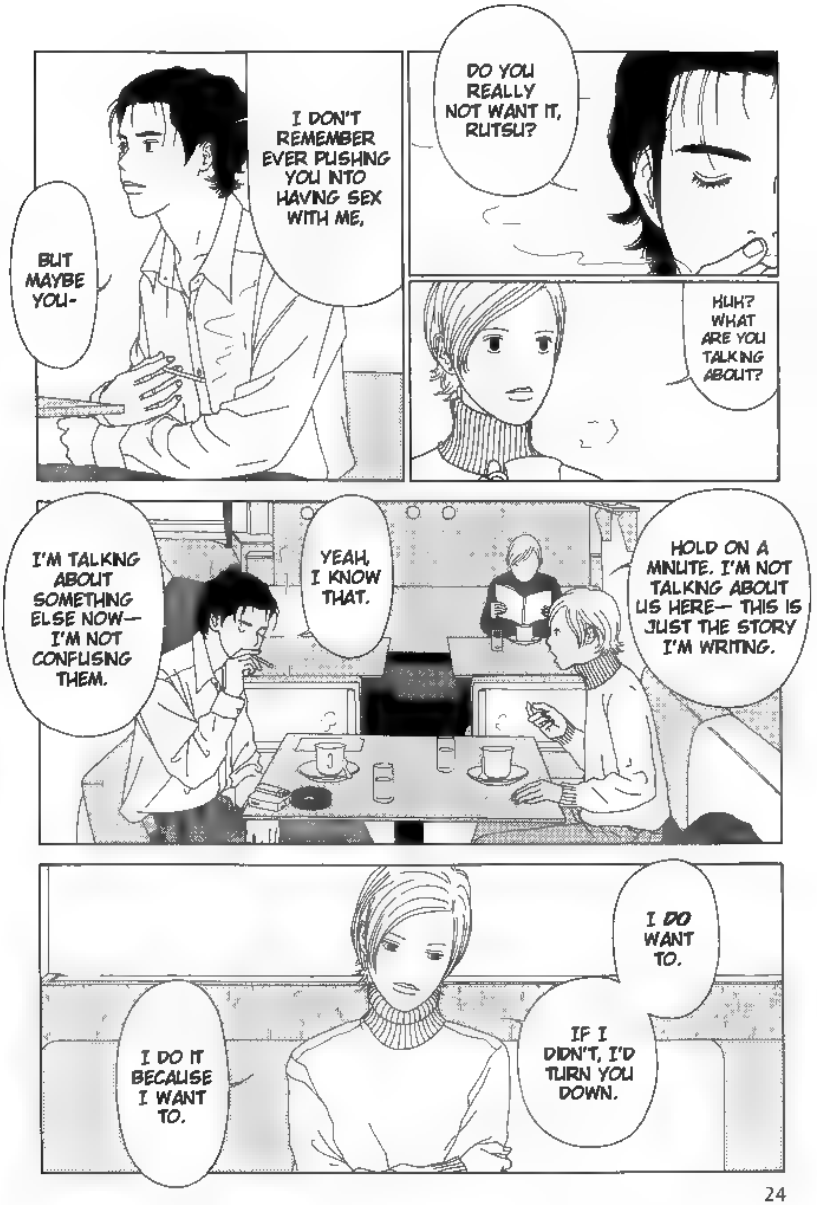
Chapter 2 Second Meeting

I HAVEN'T YET MANAGED TO HAVE A SECOND MEETING WITH YANO TAMAKI, AN EDITOR FOR AN ART MAGAZINE.

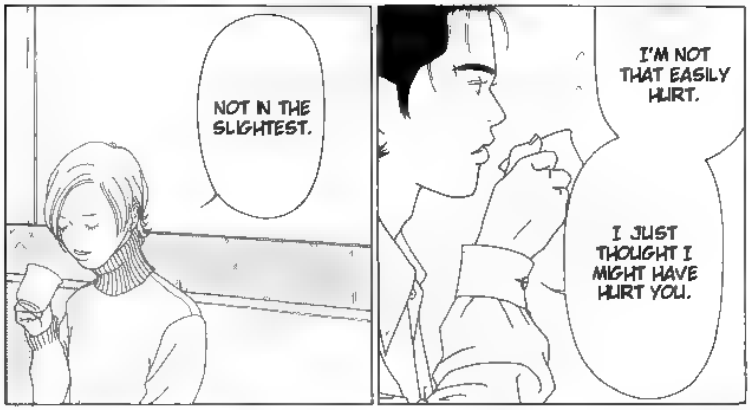
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN,
AND THE THOUGHT OF EARNING HER DISLIKE WEAKENS MY RESOLVE.


I TRIED CALLING HER EDITING DEPARTMENT ONCE, BUT SHE WAS OUT. I KEPT PUTTING OFF CALLING HER AGAIN, AND TWO WEEKS PASSED AS I WAVERED OVER THE DECISION.
SONY

SO HOW ABOUT 60 PAGES FOR THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF YOUR SERIALIZED STORY?
YES, THAT'S FINE.
SO HOW ABOUT THE PLOT OF THE STORY? CAN YOU TELL ME YET?
I THINK I WANT TO WRITE ABOUT A WOMAN WHO'S IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PERFECT MAN.
OH, I GET IT. THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, RUTSU.
A PERFECT MAN, HUH?
WONDER WHAT SORT OF PERSON HE IS.
THE MORE SHE LOVES HIM AND IS LOVED BACK IN RETURN, THE MORE SHE FEELS LIKE SHE'S BETRAYING THEM BOTH.
YEAH, RIGHT.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU, RYUUJI.


I DON'T REMEMBER EVER PUSHING YOU INTO HAVING SEX WITH ME,
BUT MAYBE YOU-
DO YOU REALLY NOT WANT IT, RUTSU?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE NOW— I'M NOT CONFUSING THEM.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT.
HOLD ON A MINUTE. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT US HERE— THIS IS JUST THE STORY I'M WRITING.
I DO IT BECAUSE I WANT TO.
IF I DIDN'T, I'D TURN YOU DOWN.
I DO WANT TO.

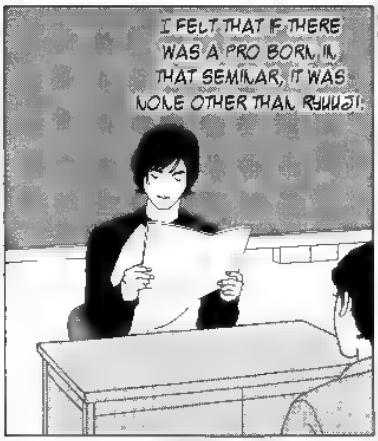
IF MY UNCONSCIOUS BEHAVIOR HURT YOU, THEN I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE.

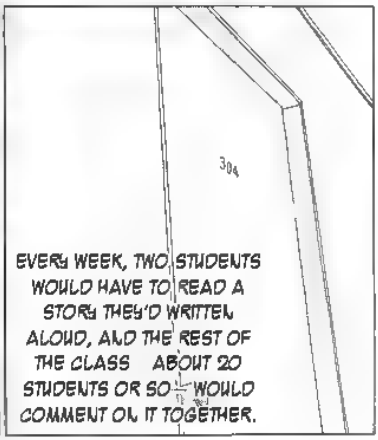

I'M NOT THAT EASILY HURT.
I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE HURT YOU.
NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST.

WANT TO GO SEE A MOVIE NEXT SATURDAY?
SURE, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU ON FRIDAY THEN.
OKAY. PLEASE DO.
RYUUJI IS A YEAR OLDER THAN ME,

AND WE WERE IN THE SAME SEMINAR IN OUR SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE.
BUT WE GRADUATED FROM OUR UNIVERSITY IN THE SAME YEAR. WE BOTH GOT DEGREES IN LITERATURE.

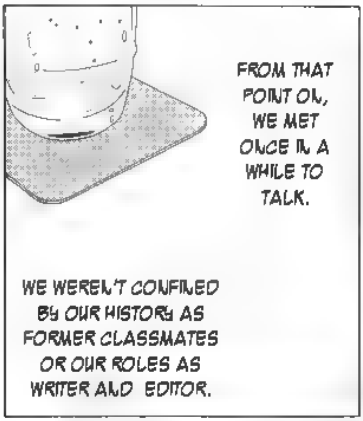

I FELT THAT IF THERE WAS A PRO BORN, IN THAT SEMINAR, IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN RYUUJI.


304
EVERY WEEK, TWO STUDENTS WOULD HAVE TO READ A STORY THEY'D WRITTEN ALOUD, AND THE REST OF THE CLASS ABOUT 20 STUDENTS OR SO WOULD COMMENT ON IT TOGETHER.

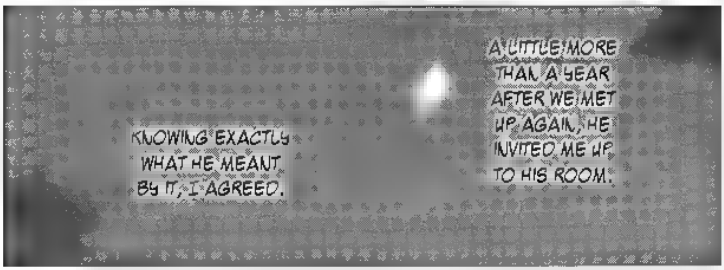
AND YET THE TWO OF US RARELY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER BACK THEN.

TWO YEARS AGO, HE CAME UP TO ME IN A BOOKSTORE.

ARE YOU EVER GOING TO WRITE ANY MORE STORIES, INUI-KUN?
HUH?
OH. NO, I'M NOT. I WANTED TO BE AN EDITOR FROM THE BEGINNING.
I JUST CHOSE TO TAKE THAT CREATIVE WRITING CLASS SO I COULD GET A FIRST-HAND GLIMPSE OF THE WRITER'S POINT OF VIEW.


FROM THAT POINT ON, WE MET ONCE IN A WHILE TO TALK.
WE WEREN'T CONFINED BY OUR HISTORY AS FORMER CLASSMATES OR OUR ROLES AS WRITER AND EDITOR.

FROM YOUR WRITING, YOU SOUNDED LIKE YOU HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOURSELF
I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLANNING TO TRY AND GO PRO.


A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER WE MET UP AGAIN, HE INVITED ME UP TO HIS ROOM.
KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT BY IT, I AGREED.

I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM.

SO...

YANO SPEAKING

THIS IS NAKAGAWA. NAKAGAWA RUTSU... UM, SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS AND INTERRUPT YOUR WORK.

I DON'T REALLY NEED ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR FROM YOU.

I JUST WANT TO ASK:

WOULD YOU MEET WITH ME ONE MORE TIME? I JUST NEED 20 OR 30 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME. PLEASE.

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET?

VERY WELL

I HAVEN'T SPOKEN OF THIS TO ANYONE, BUT JUST AS YOU SAID,

BY YOUR NSIGHT NTO THAT CHARACTER FROM MY STORY.

I WAS SURPRISED BEFORE

Y THE TEXTILE-DYEING ARTIST IS A WOMAN.

FOR MOST READERS, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT Y, WHO SPENT THE NIGHT WITH A FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENT, WOULD BE A MAN,

JUST AS IT WAS FOR DEN-SAN.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU KNEW THAT.

CLINK

I DEEPLY REGRET WHAT I DID BEFORE— IT WAS IMPERTINENT OF ME

TO GO ON ABOUT MY OPINION IN FRONT OF YOU, WHEN I'M MERELY A READER OF YOUR WORKS.

NAKA-GAWA-SAN.

YES?

IF I COULD SAY SOMETHING TERRIBLY RUDE?

AND

IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE YOU TO FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED.

YES?

OH, NO!

YOU'VE DISAP-POINTED ME.

IT SEEMS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS.

HUH?

I REALLY WAVERED OVER WHETHER TO CALL YOU BECAUSE I KNEW THAT WAS HOW YOU FELT.

I RE-MEMBER.

COULD IT BE THAT YOU FORGOT THAT?

I DECLINED YOUR INVITATION BEFORE BECAUSE I WANTED TO JUST REMAIN A READER OF YOUR WORKS.

OH, AND COULD I EXCUSE MYSELF NOW? TODAY IS QUITE BUSY FOR ME.

THEN PLEASE DON'T SEEK ME OUT AGAIN.

PLEASE WAIT, YANO-SAN.

WHY ARE YOU SO AVERSE TO SPENDING TIME WITH ME?

IT WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME IF YOU'D JUST DEAL WITH ME IN THE SAME WAY YOU DEAL WITH WRITERS IN YOUR WORK AS AN EDITOR.

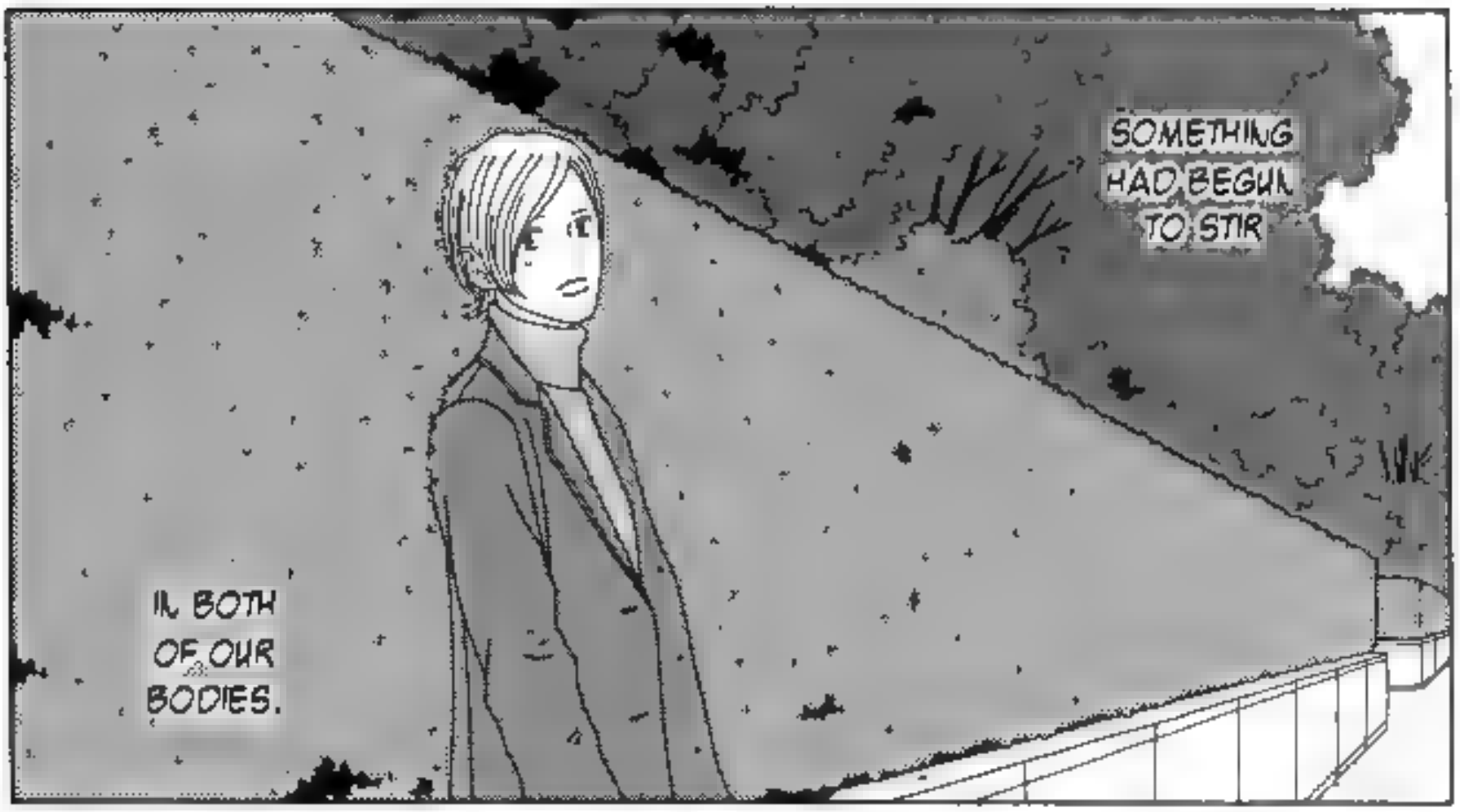
IS IT THAT

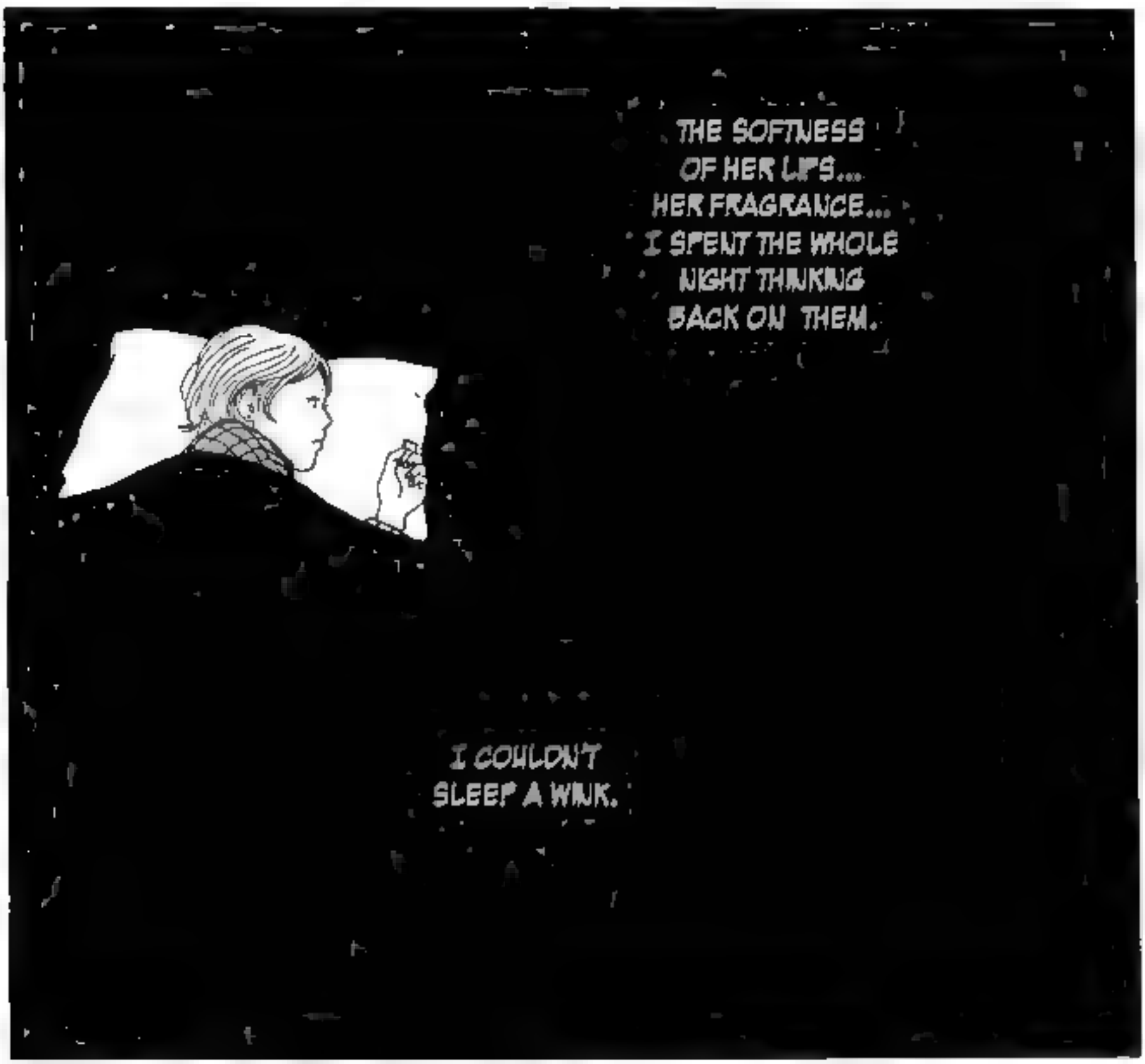
YOU DON'T LIKE ME?

RUSTLE

YOU CALLED ME.

IT'S YOUR FAULT.


SOMETHING HAD BEGUN TO STIR
IN BOTH OF OUR BODIES.


THE SOFTNESS OF HER LIPS... HER FRAGRANCE... I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT THINKING BACK ON THEM.
I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 2

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

Cleaned by treks and Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW

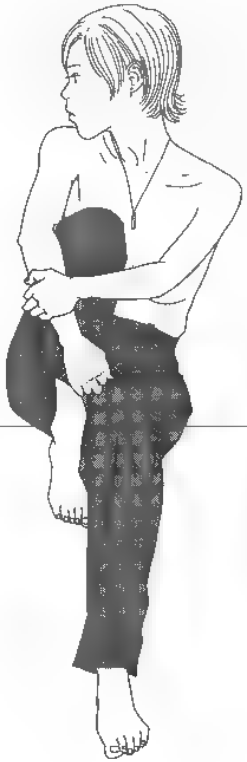
A Lilicious Project

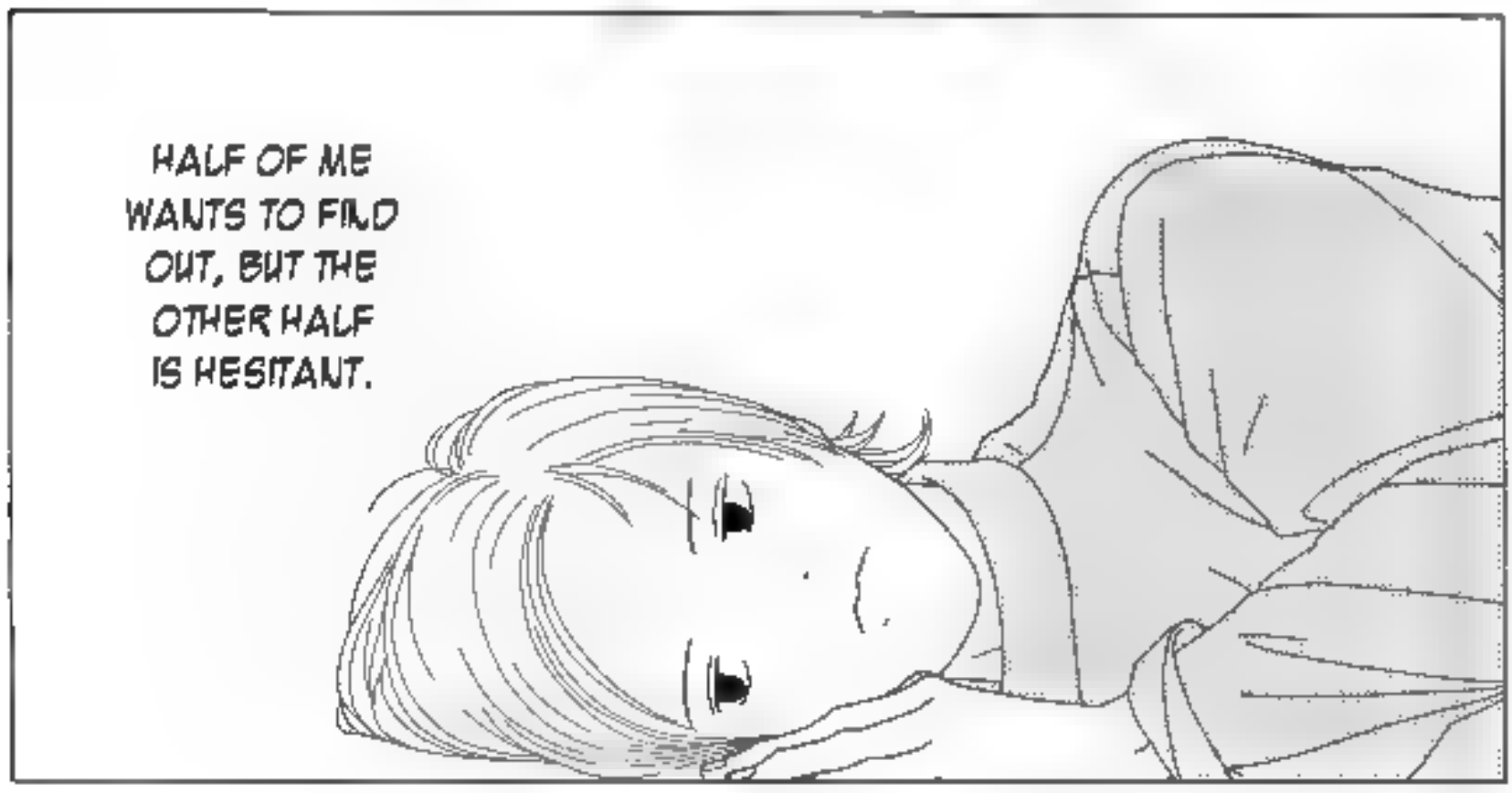
http://lilicious.net

#lilicious@irc.rizon.net

Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you

Chapter 3 Confession





WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO CALL HER AGAIN?

I THOUGHT IT WAS BEST TO GIVE HER SOME TIME ALONE TODAY.

ONE OF MY WIFE'S CLIENTS MESSED UP SOME ILLUSTRATIONS THAT SHE WAS REALLY PSYCHED ABOUT.

I REALLY AM SORRY THAT WE ENDED UP GOING TO THE ZOO INSTEAD OF THE ART GALLERY, RUTSU.

EVEN VETERAN ARTISTS HAVE A LOT OF HASSLES TO DEAL WITH, HUH?

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF GOING TO THE ZOO ON MY OWN.

I'M GLAD I'M GETTING TO SEE MARIO-CHAN, TOO.

WELL, AN ILLUSTRATOR ISN'T THE SAME AS AN ARTIST.

MM. 600 YEN* FOR ADULTS?

*ABOUT $5.25 US

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING UP THERE FOR?

WHO'S RUTSU-RN?

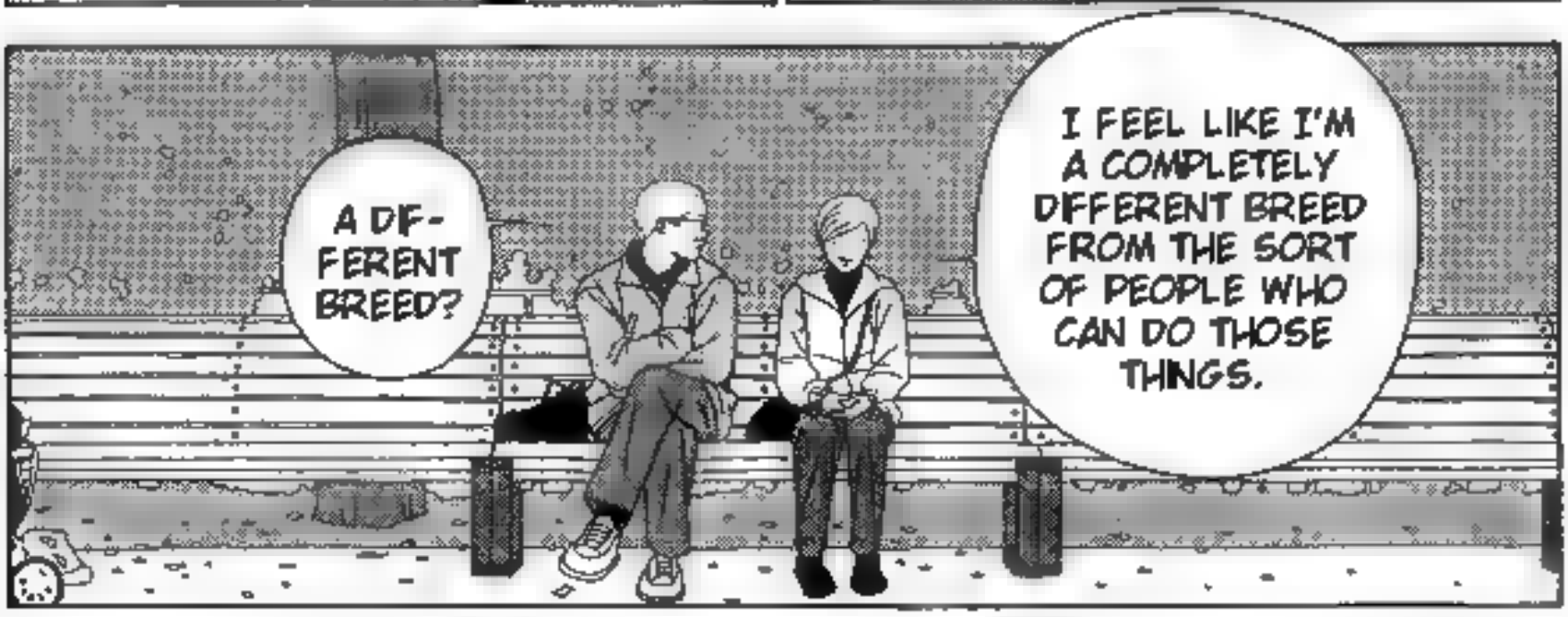
HEY, RUTSU-RN!

ANYWAY, HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WELL, ARE YOU STARTING TO THINK ABOUT MARRIAGE OR ANYTHING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GETTING MARRIED, HAVING A FAMILY, RAISING CHILDREN...
I FEEL LIKE THOSE THINGS DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY LIFE.

IT'S NEVER CROSSED MY MIND.

YOU'RE 28 NOW. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT LEAST A LITTLE.


A DIF-FERENT BREED?
I FEEL LIKE I'M A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BREED FROM THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THOSE THINGS.

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY OTHER GIRLS WANTED TO GET MARRIED WHEN THEY GREW UP.

EVEN BACK WHEN I WAS AROUND MARIO-CHAN'S AGE,

I MET MY WIFE, I KNEW I WANTED TO MARRY HER SOMEDAY.

THE DAY

IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A DIFFERENT BREED OF PERSON FROM THEM.

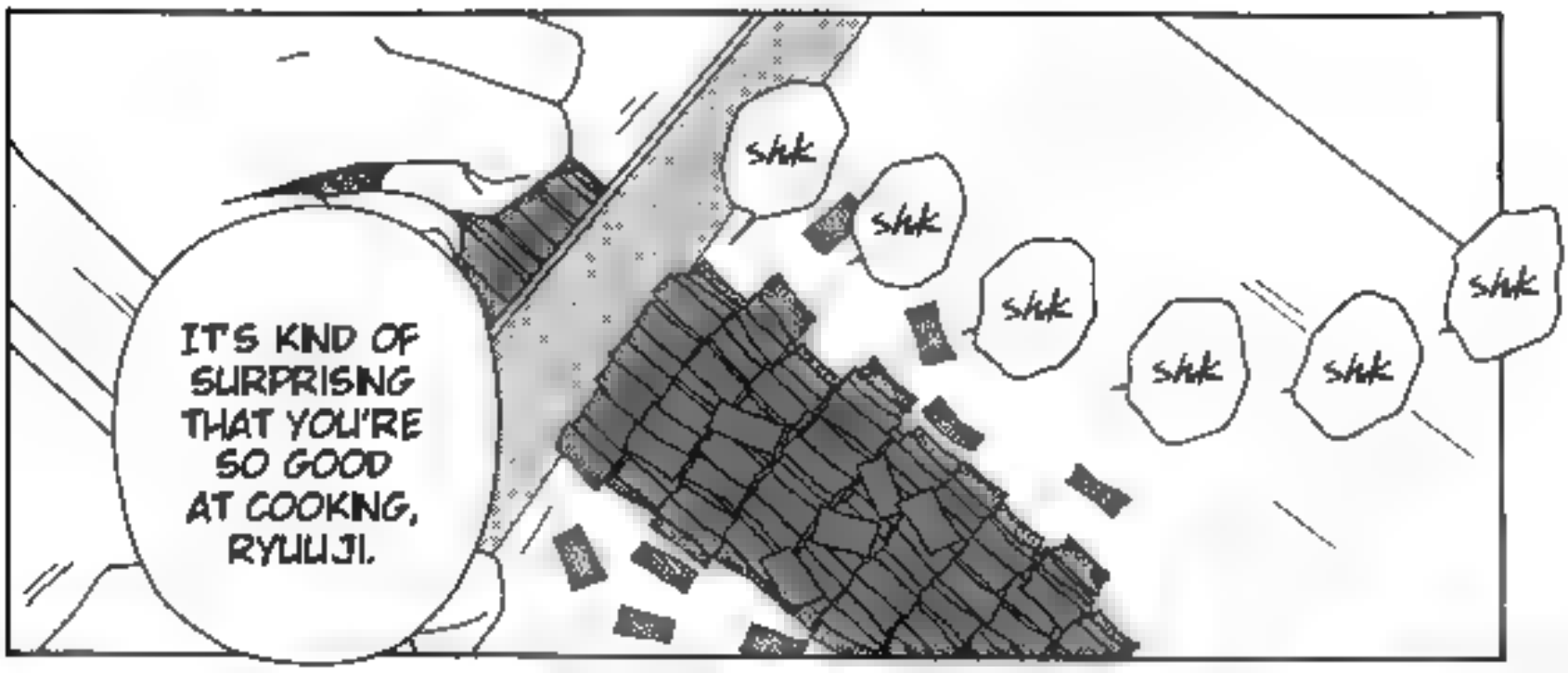
DISCRIMI-NATION IS WRONG, YOU KNOW!

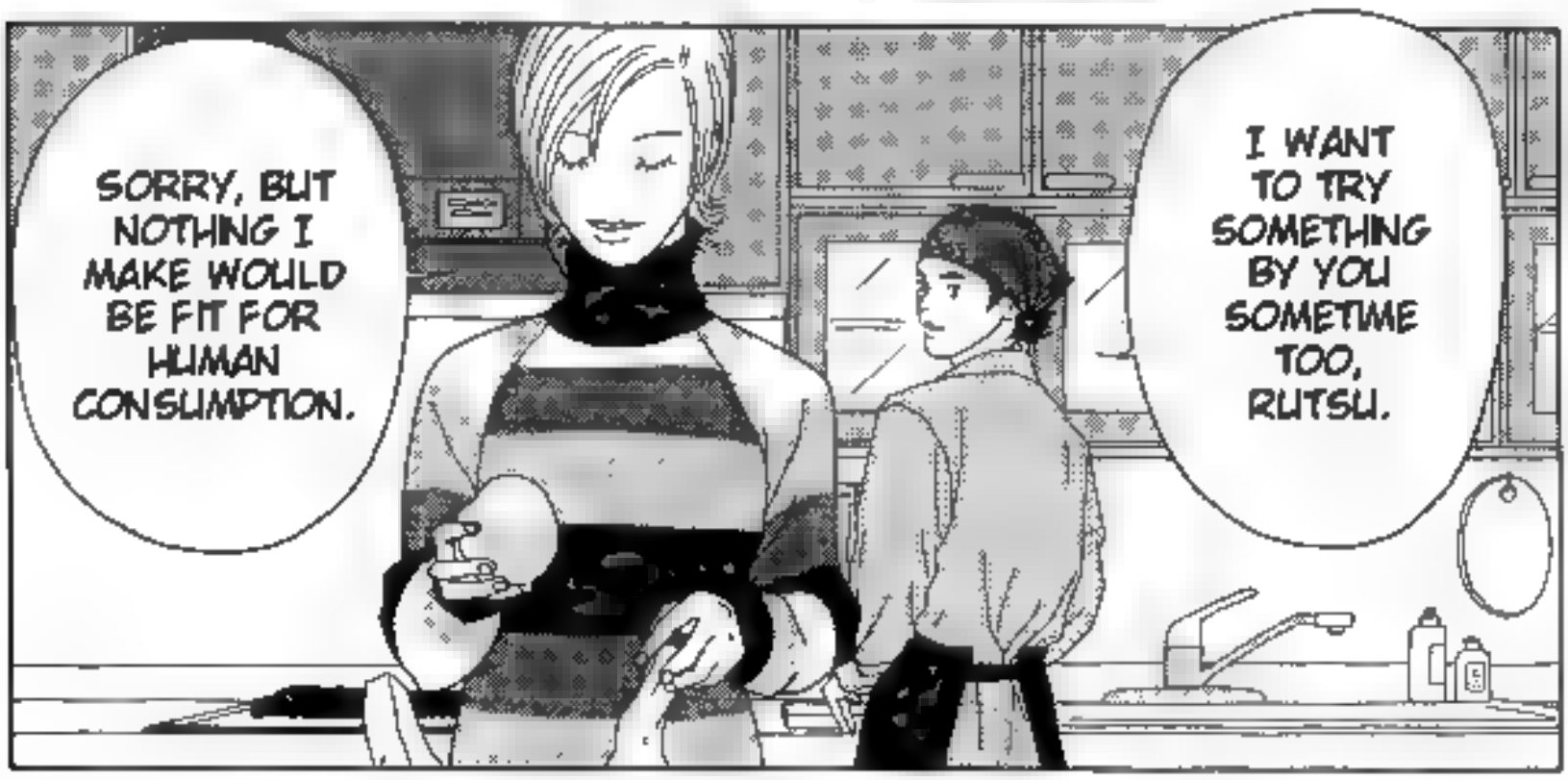
HEY!

WOW. WE REALLY ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BREEDS.

WHAAT? YOU'RE SERIOUS, DEN-SAN?

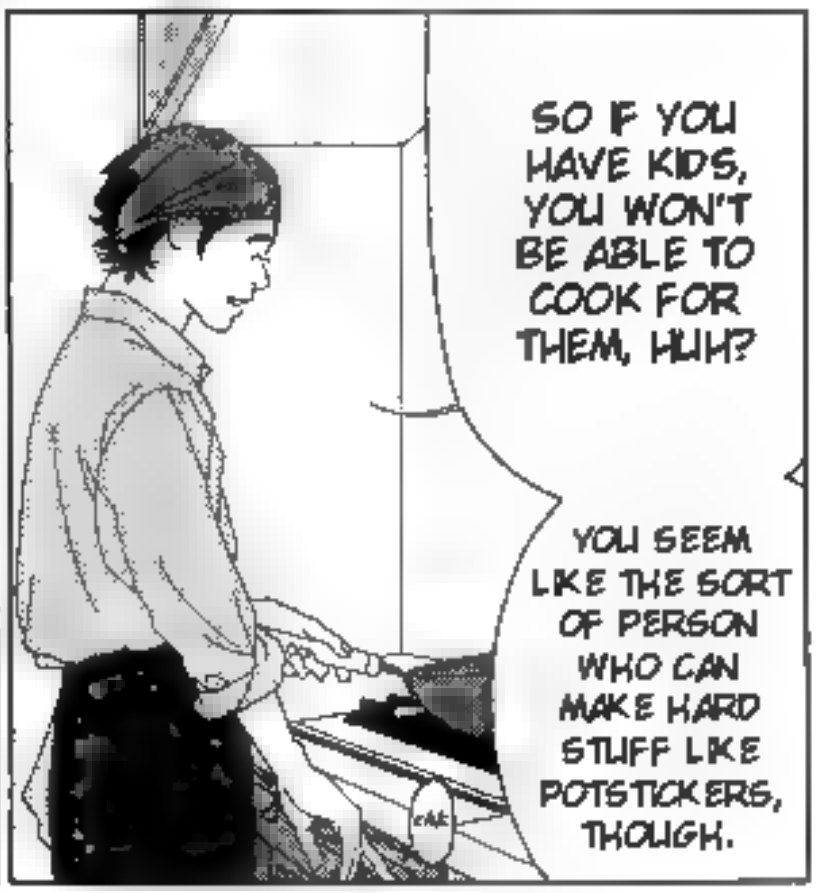
YES!


IT'S KIND OF SURPRISING THAT YOU'RE SO GOOD AT COOKING, RYUUJI.
shk
shk
shk
shk
shk
shk


SORRY, BUT NOTHING I MAKE WOULD BE FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.
I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING BY YOU SOMETIME TOO, RUTSU.

I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE KIDS.

HUH?


SO IF YOU HAVE KIDS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COOK FOR THEM, HUH?
YOU SEEM LIKE THE SORT OF PERSON WHO CAN MAKE HARD STUFF LIKE POTSTICKERS, THOUGH.
cut

SO YOU DON'T LIKE KIDS?

SIZZLE.

I COULDN'T RAISE THEM, SO I'M NOT HAVING ANY.

YOU SEEM LIKE THE SORT OF PERSON WHO LIKES THEM, THOUGH.

I THINK IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOME KIDS RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE.

SIZZLE.

MY OLDER BROTHER HAS A COUPLE OF BOYS.

HUNH.

I BET YOU'LL MAKE SOMEONE A GREAT HUSBAND AND FATHER SOMEDAY, RYUUJI.

I REREAD THAT NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION OF YOURS YESTERDAY.

WHICH MEANS Y IS A WOMAN.

IN "A BRIEF MOMENT," YOU DELIBERATELY WROTE THE CHARACTER Y WITHOUT ANY REFERENCES TO GENDER, DIDN'T YOU?

BUT WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS *NOW*?

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY WOMEN WRITERS IN THE WEST ONLY PUT SUBTLE HINTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THEIR STORIES BACK WHEN IT WAS OUTRIGHT HATED BY SOCIETY,

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT IT'S NOT SOMETHING A WRITER OF YOUR CALIBER SHOULD DO.

I'M NOT TELLING YOU NOT TO WRITE ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY.

BUT I DON'T THINK MUCH OF THE SORT OF LIMITED WRITING STYLE YOU USED.

Y'S GENDER REALLY IS AMBIGUOUS.

BUT THAT READING IS INCORRECT.

NOT TO QUESTION YOUR INTERPRETATION,

HUH?

EVEN Y ISN'T SURE.

I JUST WROTE IT WITH THAT FEELING.

WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK FROM IT, I REALIZED I DESPERATELY WANTED TO TALK WITH YANO TAMAKI.

FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE, I THREW MYSELF INTO MY WRITING.

BUT WHEN SO MUCH TIME PASSED, I ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR THAT —

I DECIDED THAT IF YOU CALLED AGAIN,

I'D EXPLAIN TO YOU WHY I KEPT REJECTING YOU AND WHY I KISSED YOU SO SUDDENLY

NAKA-GAWA-SAN,

COULD WE MEET ONCE MORE?

YES.

YES, OF COURSE WE COULD, YANO-SAN!

I'LL BE BLUNT WITH YOU, NAKAGAWA-SAN.

I'VE BEEN A CONFIRMED LESBIAN FROM THE AGE OF 14.

WHAT?

I DON'T TYPICALLY FEEL THE NEED TO ANNOUNCE IT; THE PEOPLE I INTERACT WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS DON'T KNOW.

BUT I'LL BE A LESBIAN UNTIL MY DYING DAY.

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU

AT FIRST SIGHT.

BECAUSE YOU WERE SO COMPLETELY MY TYPE.

I ENJOYED READING YOUR STORIES, BUT I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I MET YOU IN PERSON

BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER, I REALIZED IT WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T ACT ON.

I ONLY GET INVOLVED IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER LESBIANS.

I DON'T BLAME THEM. EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF LIVING THEIR LIFE.

BUT I ALWAYS GET LEFT BEHIND, DEEPLY HURT. I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT ANYMORE.

FALLING IN LOVE WITH NON-LESBIANS ONLY BRINGS PAIN.

THEY DECIDE THEY WANT MARRIAGE, OR CHILDREN, OR JUST WANT A MAN AFTER ALL.

WAIT, TAMAKI-SAN DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT ME

YOU'RE RIGHT, I HAVEN'T LIVED AS A LESBIAN UP TO THIS POINT. BUT-

IF I SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER THIS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DRAW BACK. BUT AT THIS STAGE, I CAN STILL FORGET ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE A WRITER.

YOU'LL IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THAT WORLD FOR A WHILE, THEN SEEK OUT ANOTHER JUST AS EASILY.

AS A WRITER, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NEW AREAS TO EXPLORE. THAT'S ALL.

AT THE TIME, EVERYONE SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT. THEY ACT LIKE THEY HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

IT ISN'T LIKE THAT. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH COLLECTING DATA FOR MY WORK.

AND BRING YOU PLEASURE.

THEY WON'T PRY INTO YOUR BACKGROUND, OR ASK ANYTHING OF YOU. THEY'LL JUST TOUCH YOU

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL, KIND, GOOD-NATURED WOMEN.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TRY SEX WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME PEOPLE.

LOOK AT ME SO FRANKLY.

PLEASE DON'T

THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS THEN, TAMAKI-SAN?

SO

BUT I THINK IT WILL BE TO YOUR BENEFIT AS WELL.

IT MIGHT SOUND ONE-SIDED,

I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE WON'T BE SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I'LL CONTINUE TO READ YOUR WRITING, AT LEAST.
GOOD-BYE.

HEY! ARE YOU DRUNK? YOU NEVER DRINK!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CALLING SO LATE AT NIGHT?
RUTSU !?

HELP ME, RYUUJI.

RU-TSU.

I'M SO HOT. SO HOT.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO SLEEP.

MM!

AH!

HE'S RIGHT. I AM DRUNK.

HE ISN'T
THE ONE
I WANT.
BUT THERE'S
ONE THING
I'M CLEARLY
AWARE OF —

I STARED AND
STARED AT THE
IMAGE OF HER
RETREATING BACK
BURNED
INTO MY
EYELIDS.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 3

Scanned by Sailor Avalon
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A Lilicious Project
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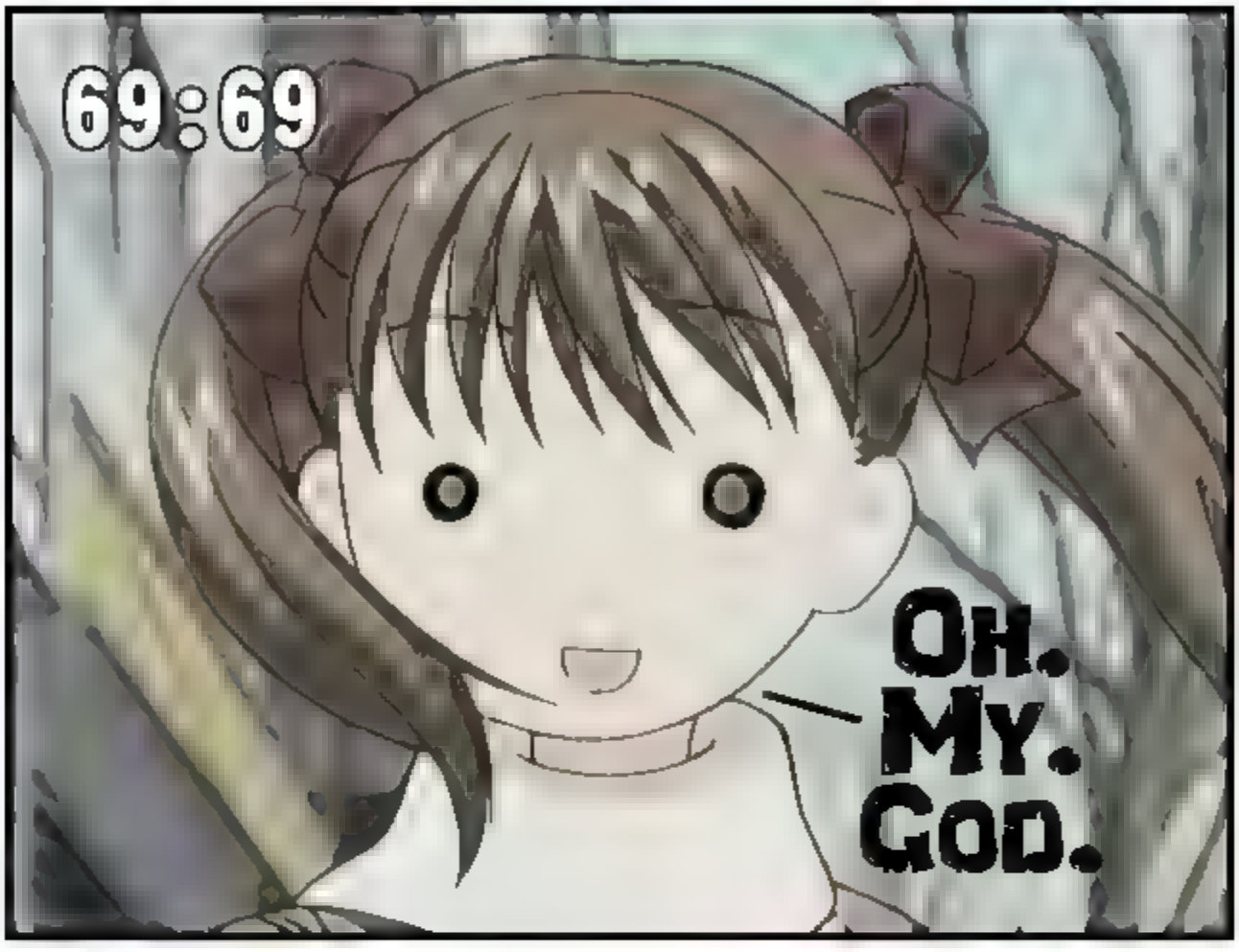
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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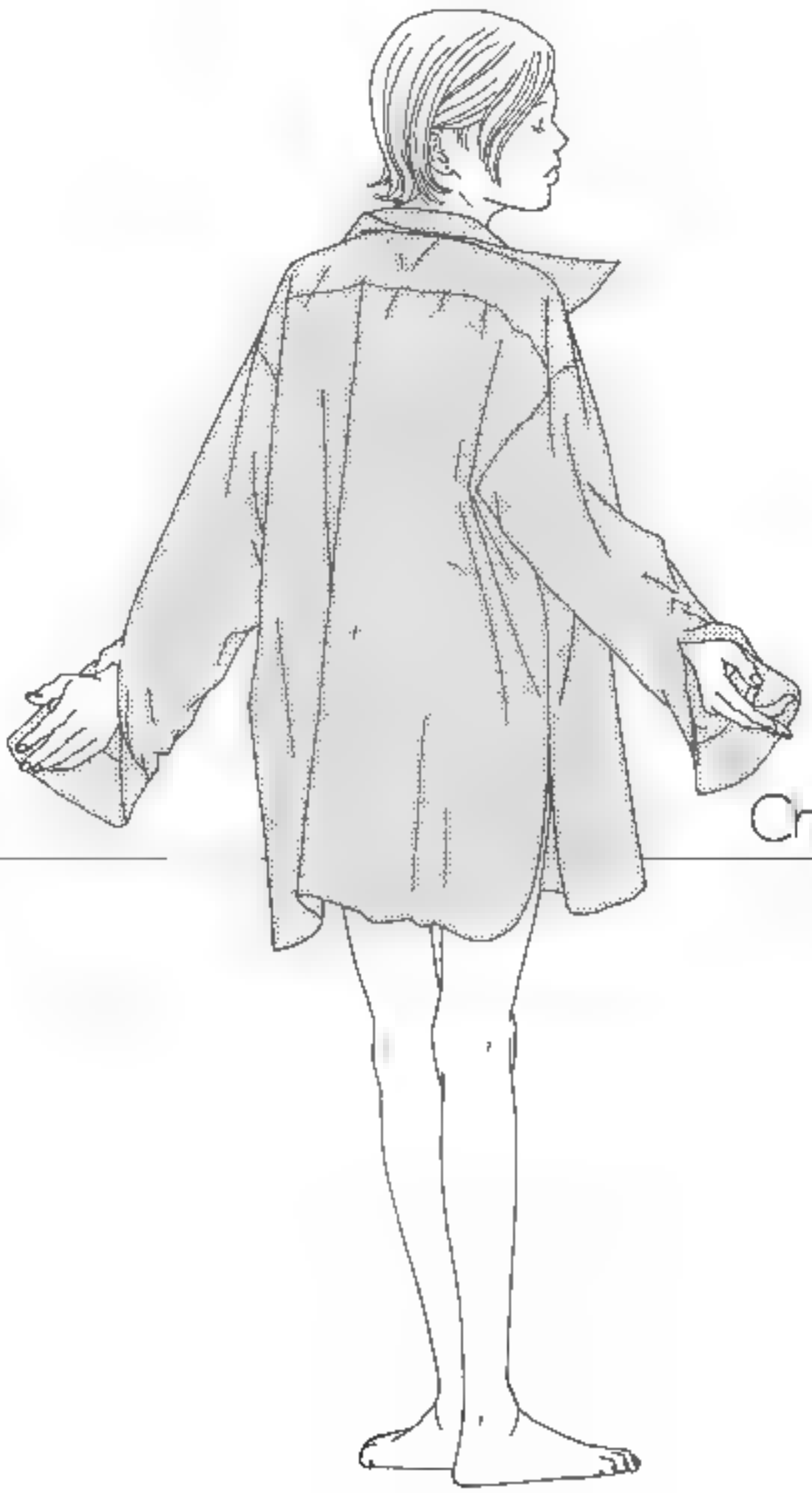
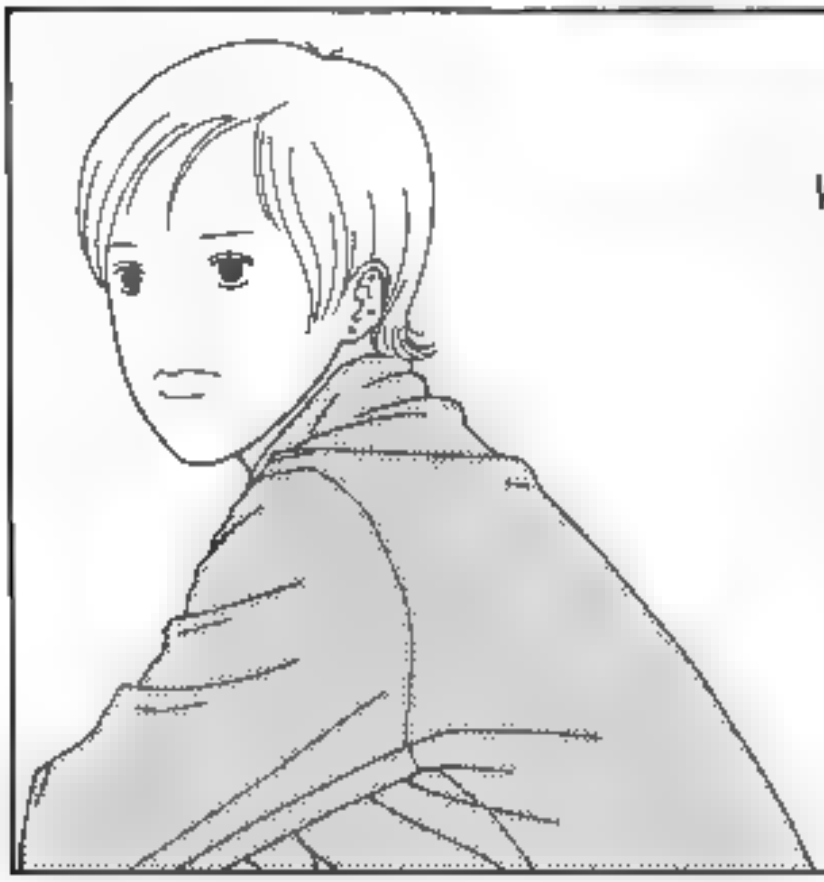


Chapter 4 Love

I CAN'T GET YANO TAMAKI OUT OF MY HEAD. I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE COLLEGE.

THERE WAS A GIRL THERE WITH THE SAME MAJOR AS ME.



WHEN SHE WAS NEAR ME, THE SWEET FRAGRANCE OF HER HAIR REACHED MY NOSE, AND MY CHEST TIGHTENED.

I STILL REMEMBER THAT FRAGRANCE.

THIS IS GOOD. EVEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.

SHE'S BETRAYING HER LOVER, BUT IT'S BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE BEYOND HER CONTROL.

UP UNTIL THE LAST, SHE FAITHFULLY STRUGGLES AGAINST HER FEELINGS. YOU'VE PORTRAYED THAT WELL.

THE WRITING ITSELF IS EVEN BETTER THAN YOUR WORK UP TO THIS POINT, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PROTAGONIST IS APPEALING.

OH, REALLY?

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I THINK THIS IS AN EXCEL-LENT STORY.

BUT THE PROTA-GONIST AWAKENS AS A LESBIAN.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO READ THAT SORT OF THING?

WORK ON IT QUICKLY.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO READING IT.

MM. SOUNDS GOOD.

clink

THE SECOND PART WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE PROTAGONIST MEETS HER BOYFRIEND.

I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS, THOUGH.

OH, ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT.

HM?

THE FIRST TIME I'D SEEN YOU LIKE THAT.

IT WAS

I PROBABLY BEHAVED TERRIBLY.

HUH?

IT MADE ME HAPPY.

I WAS HAPPY THAT YOU WOULD SEEK ME OUT LIKE THAT,

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW YOU WEREN'T SOBER.

YOU'RE USUALLY SO COOL AND COLLECTED. I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

IT'S A SHAME YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT.

BUT

NO, IT'S OKAY.

YOU MUST BE HUN-GRY.

SORRY I'M LATE, RUTSU. A MEETING RAN LONG.

IT IS, ISN'T IT?

I WANTED TO SHOW IT TO MARIO-CHAN.

OH, THIS IS NICE. THE COLORS ARE GOOD.

IT'S A PIC-TURE BOOK.

OH, BEFORE I FORGET— PLEASE GIVE THIS TO MARIO-CHAN.

OH?

MARIO-CHAN'S A SPECIAL CASE.

OH~~~? RUTSU, COULD IT BE

THAT YOU LIKE KIDS AFTER ALL?

I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO CLEAR UP MY FEELINGS, BUT THE THING IS, I'VE ONLY MET HIM ONCE BEFORE AND DON'T KNOW HIS ADDRESS.

HUH?

OH, THE YANO-SAN WHO WORKS FOR *NERVE*?

MOROI... HITOSHI. HE'S AN ARTIST.

I THINK SHE MIGHT KNOW HIS CONTACT INFO, BUT I CAN'T EXACTLY CALL HER AT WORK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HEY, DEN-SAN, REMEMBER THAT WOMAN WHO WAS AN EDITOR FOR AN ART MAGAZINE... YANO-SAN, WAS IT?

MOROI...? NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

I WANT TO GO THANK HER IN PERSON AFTERWARDS. COULD I HAVE THE ADDRESS TOO?

OH, HOLD ON.

OH, HERE WE GO. YOU JUST NEED THE PHONE NUMBER, RIGHT?

Clip

I WONDER IF SHE STILL LIVES THERE?

I DID SEND A MANUSCRIPT TO HER HOME ADDRESS ONCE.

PLEASE GIVE ME HER ADDRESS! I PROMISE I WON'T BOTHER HER.

PROB-ABLY NOT.

SO WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE HIM, RUTSU?

WILL SLEEPING WITH HIM ONCE REALLY PUT AN END TO YOUR FEEL-INGS?

MOROI IS ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT RIGHT NOW. I DON'T HAVE ROOM IN MY HEAD FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

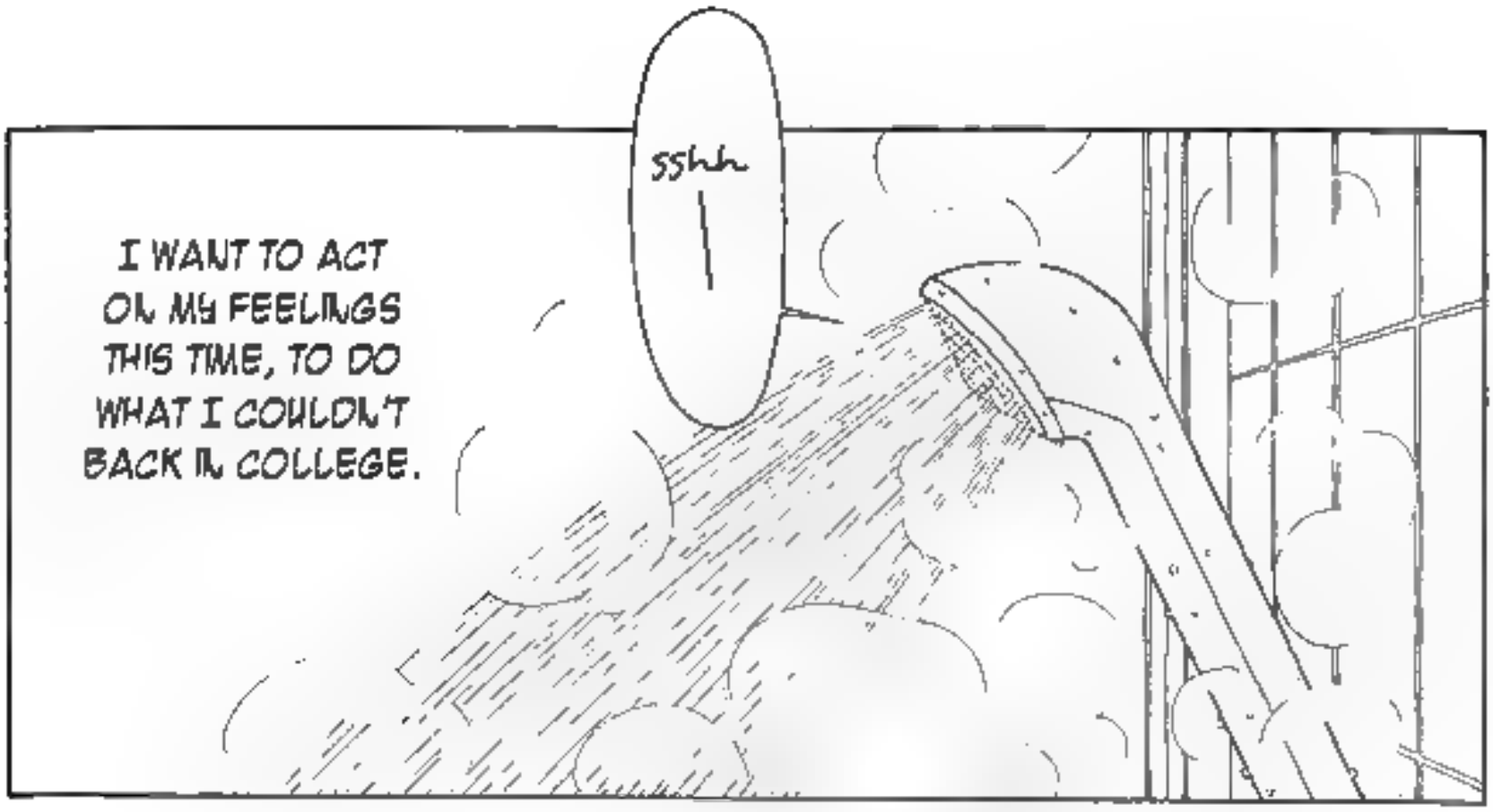
DEN-SAN.

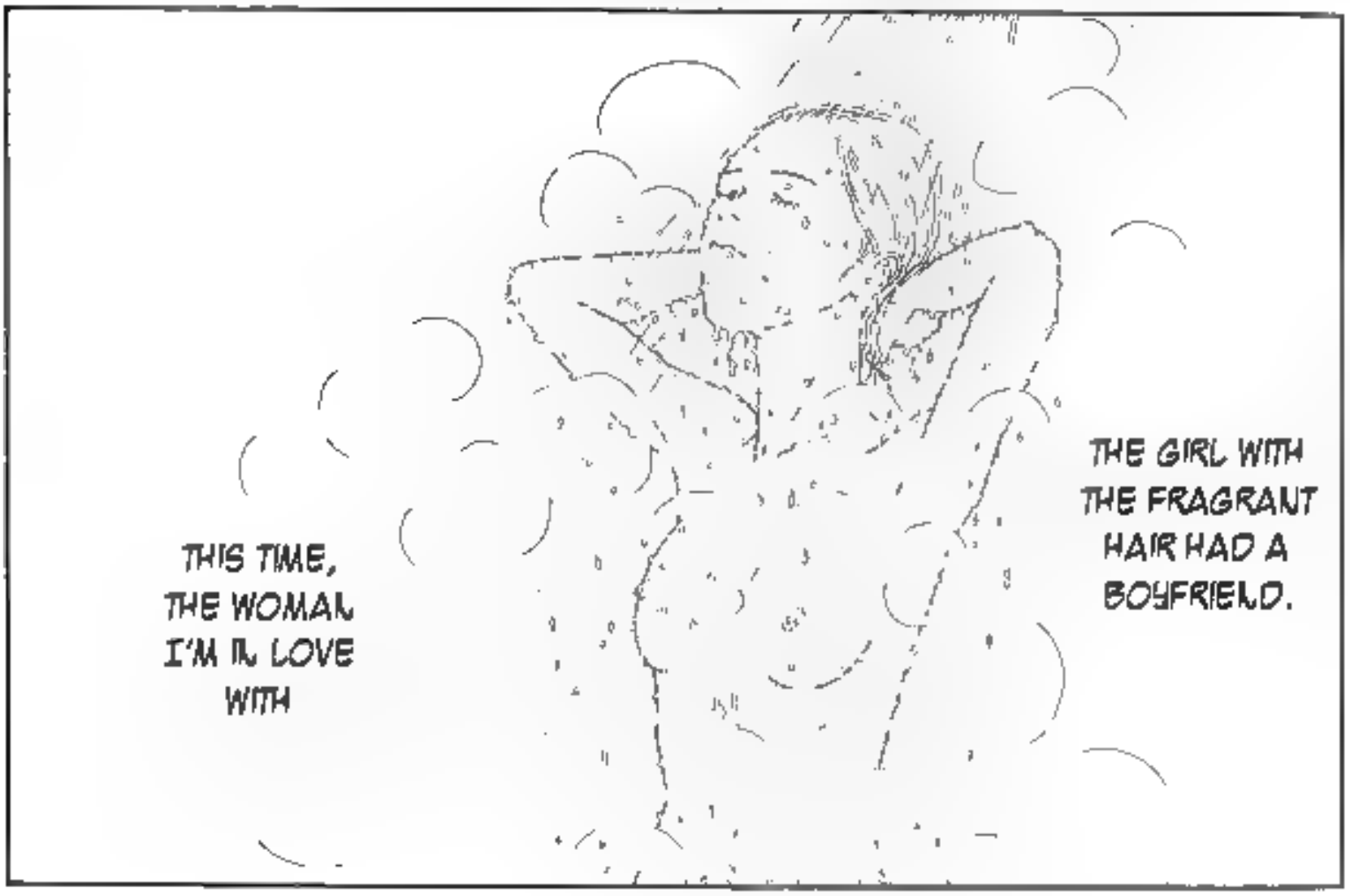
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

HAVE YOUR FEELINGS FOR HIM COOLED?

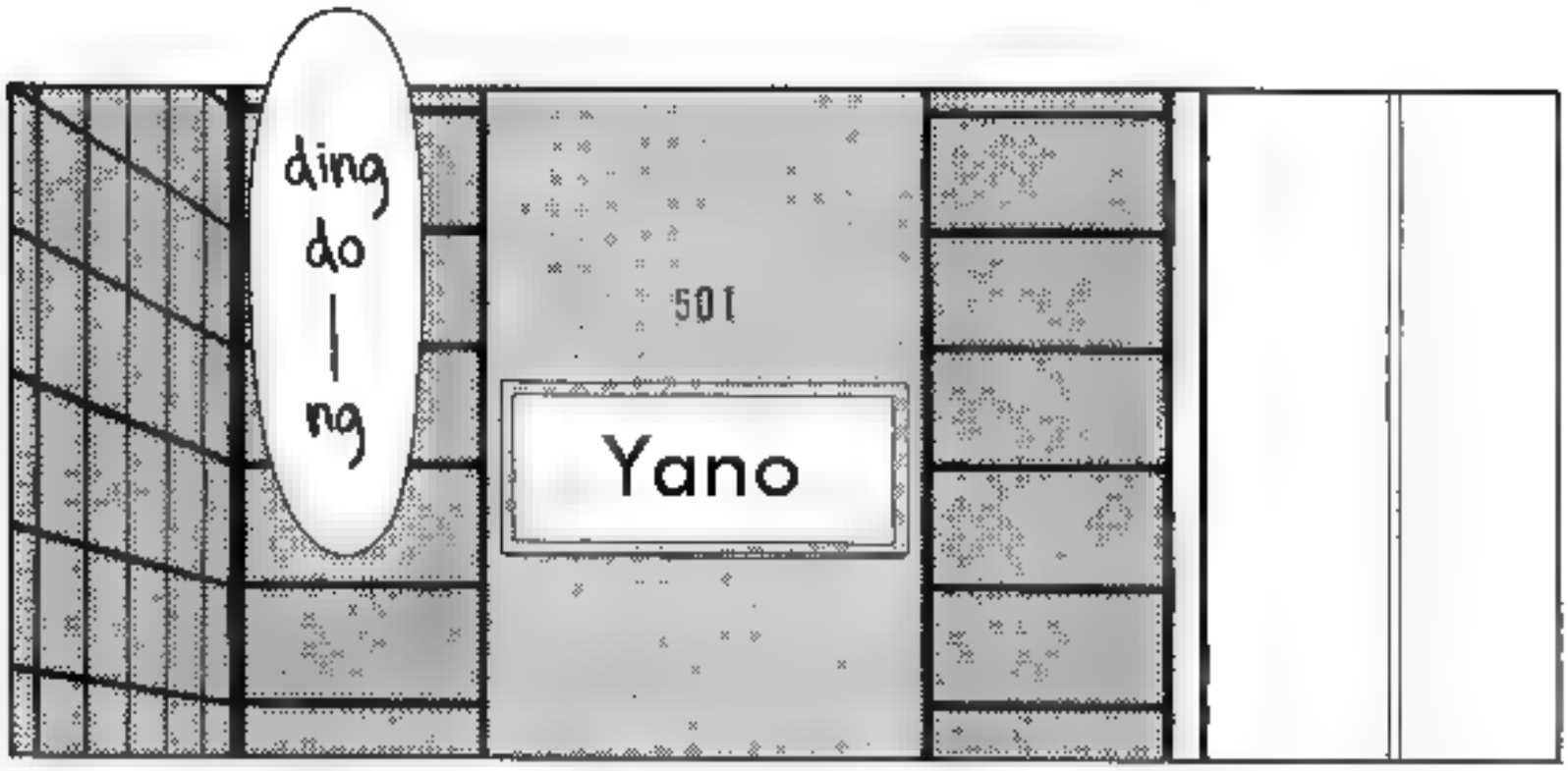
ANYTHING I SAY WILL JUST GO IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.

SO IT REALLY IS LOVE.

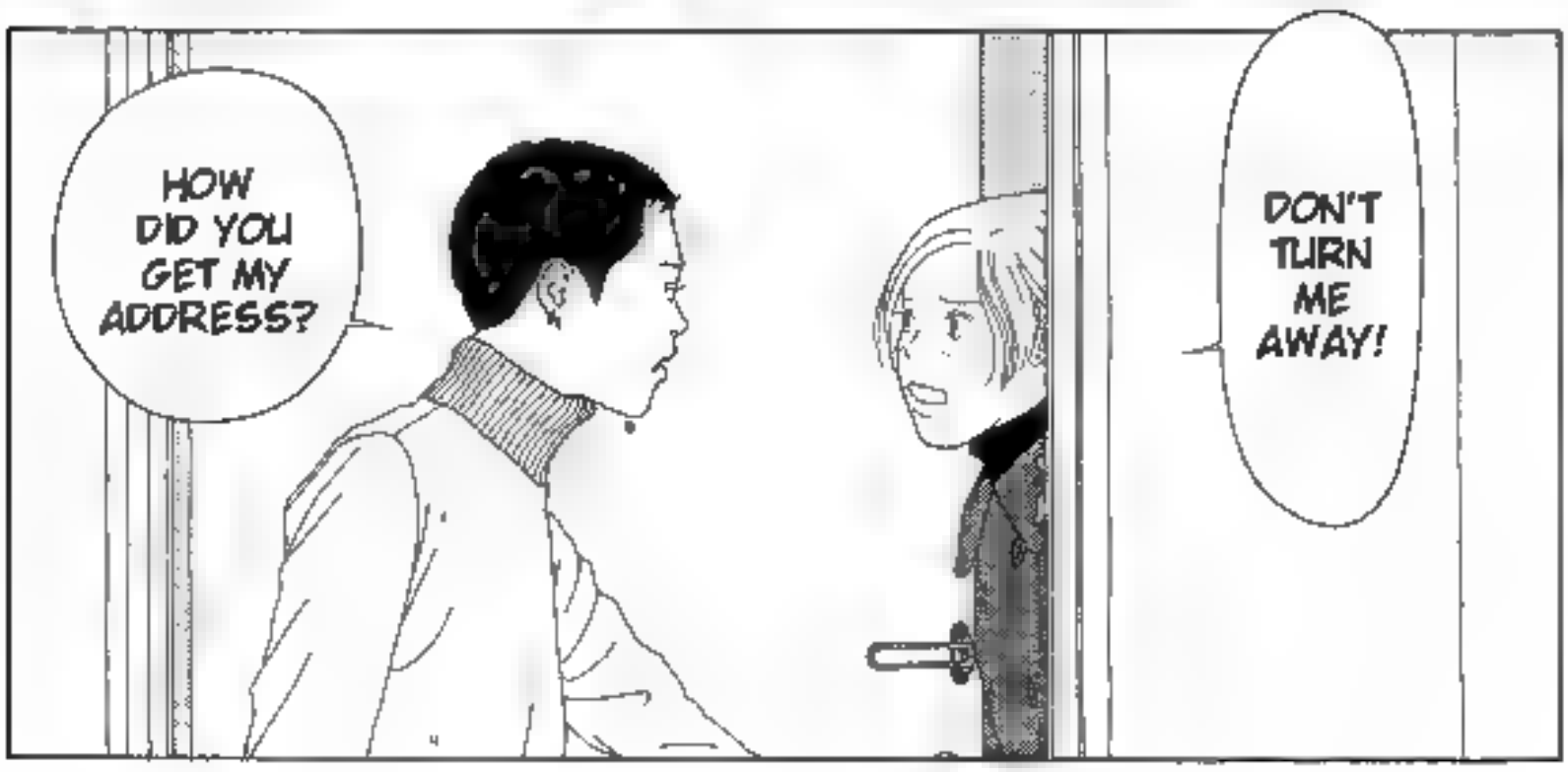

I WANT TO ACT ON MY FEELINGS THIS TIME, TO DO WHAT I COULDN'T BACK IN COLLEGE.
SSHH


THIS TIME, THE WOMAN I'M IN LOVE WITH
THE GIRL WITH THE FRAGRANT HAIR HAD A BOYFRIEND.

IS A LESBIAN.


ding
do
—
ng
501
Yano

TA-
MAKI-
SAN.
creak
YES?


HOW
DID YOU
GET MY
ADDRESS?
DON'T
TURN
ME
AWAY!

I LOVE YOU.

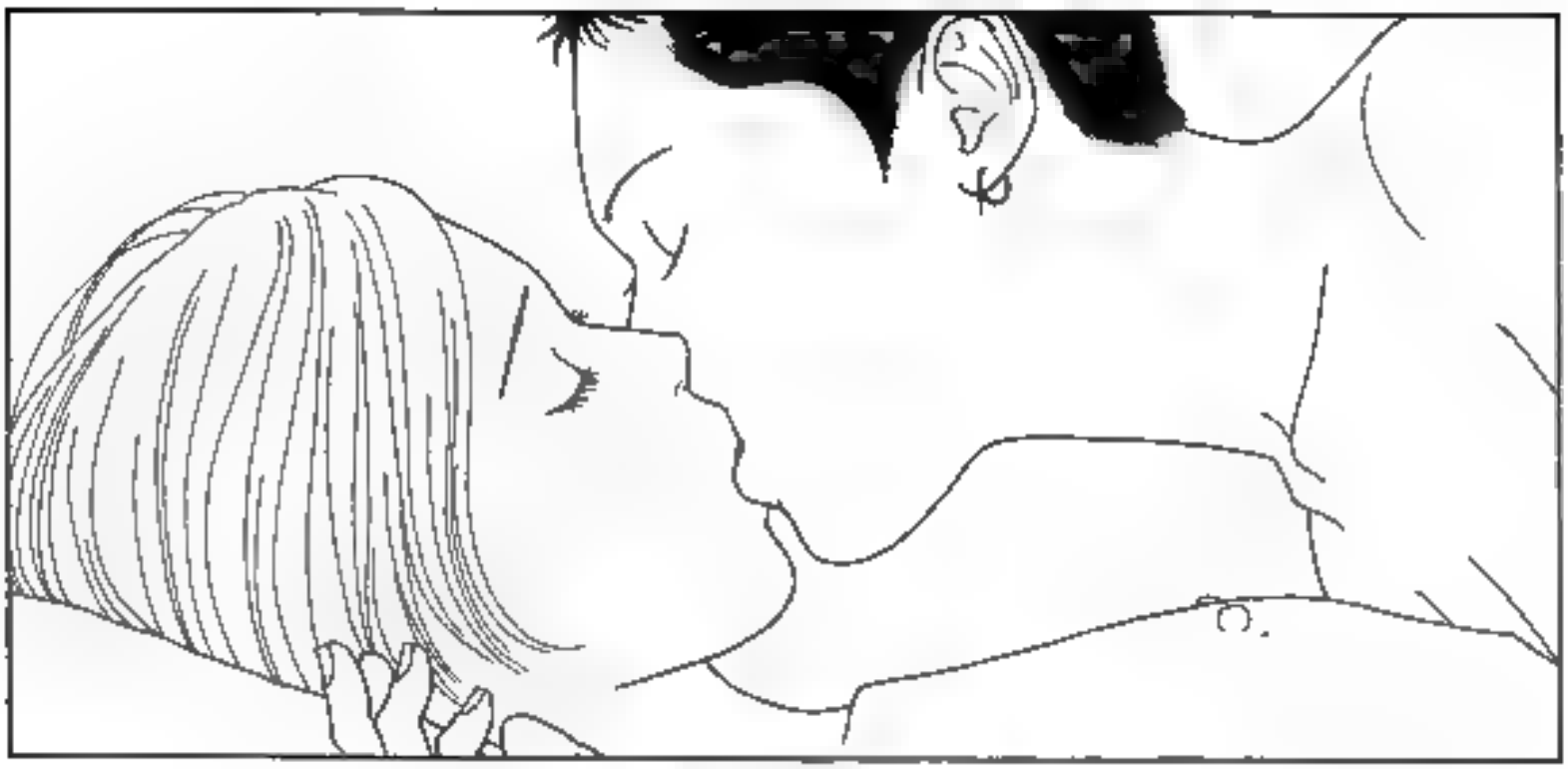
PLEASE ACCEPT MY FEELINGS.

NAKA-GAWA-SAN...

I LOVE YOU. I WANT TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY?

NO, I HAVEN'T.



AH.

pant

AH!

pant
pant
pant
AH!
AH!
MM!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE FELT THIS SATISFIED.

YOU'RE CUTE, RUTSU.

IT'S FINE. THERE'S NO RUSH.

hehe hehe

BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU YET.

RIGHT ?

RIGHT.

YOU CAME HERE FULLY UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING I SAID,

rattle

TAMAKI-SAN.

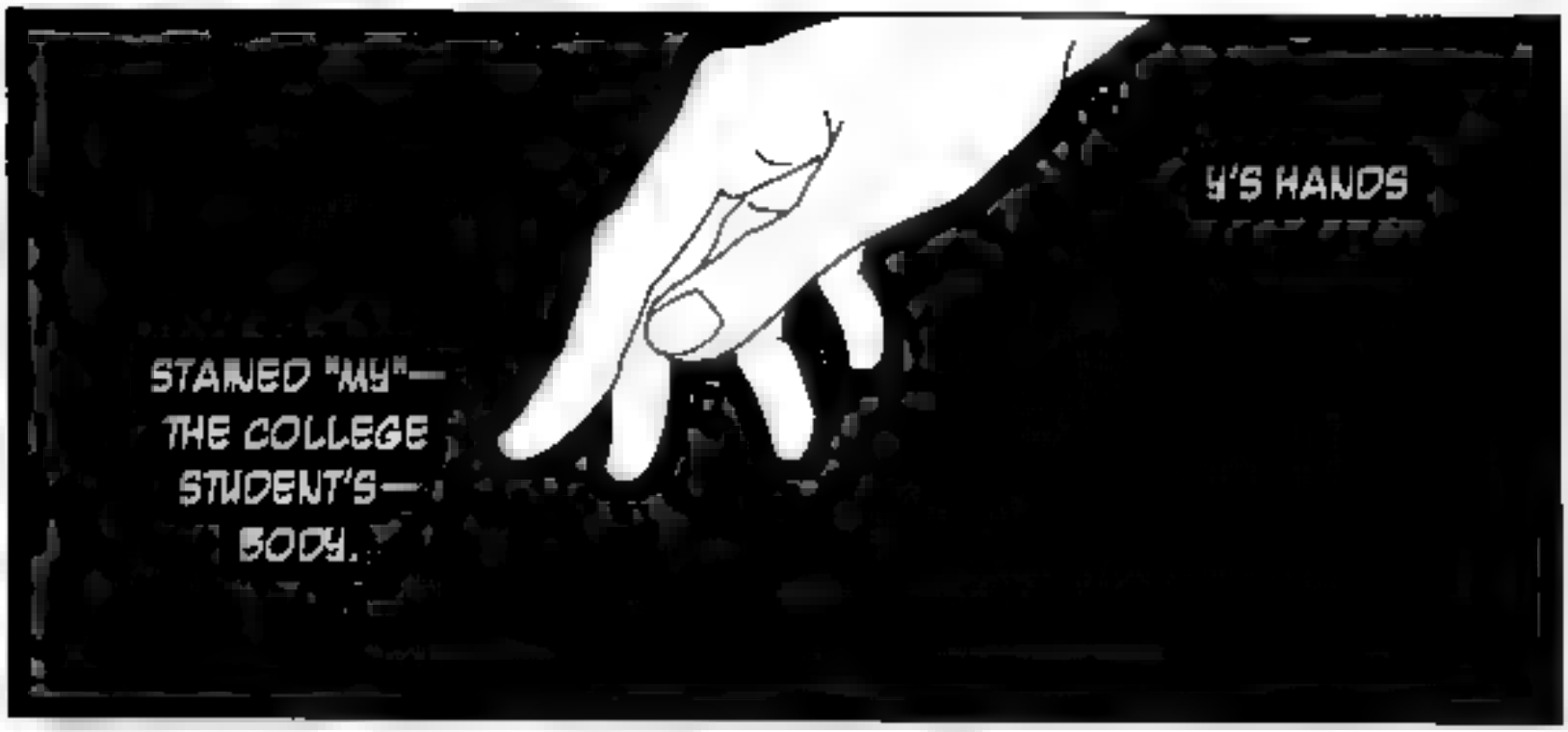
FROM TODAY ON, I'M YOURS.

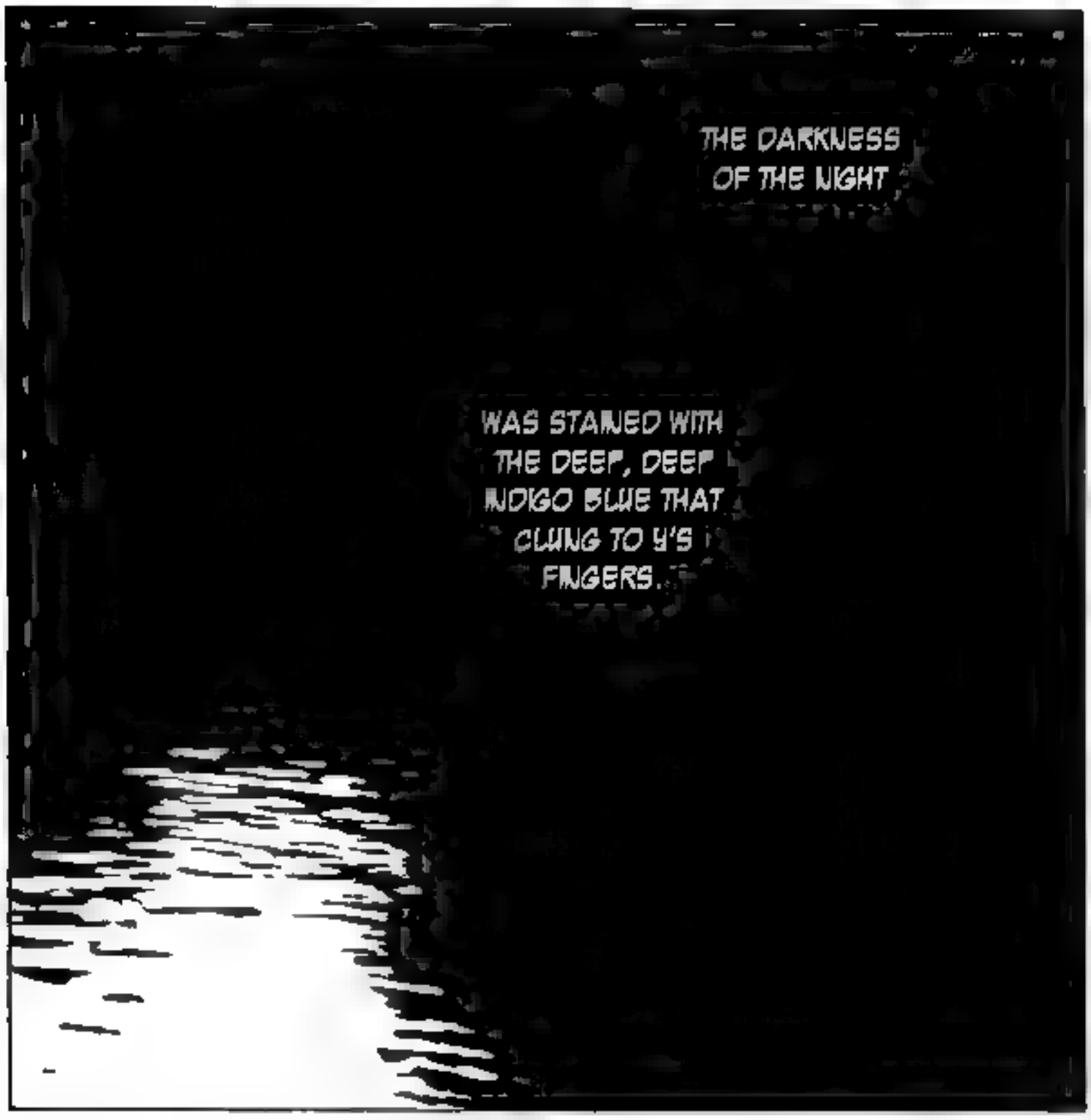
I WON'T. I PROMISE.

DON'T BREAK MY HEART, OKAY?

THAT STORY SUDDENLY POPPED INTO MY MIND.

SHE MADE GENTLE LOVE TO ME AGAIN AFTER THAT.


Y'S HANDS
STAINED "MY"—
THE COLLEGE
STUDENT'S—
BODY.


THE DARKNESS
OF THE NIGHT
WAS STAINED WITH
THE DEEP, DEEP
INDIGO BLUE THAT
CLUNG TO Y'S
FINGERS.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 4

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A Lilicious Project

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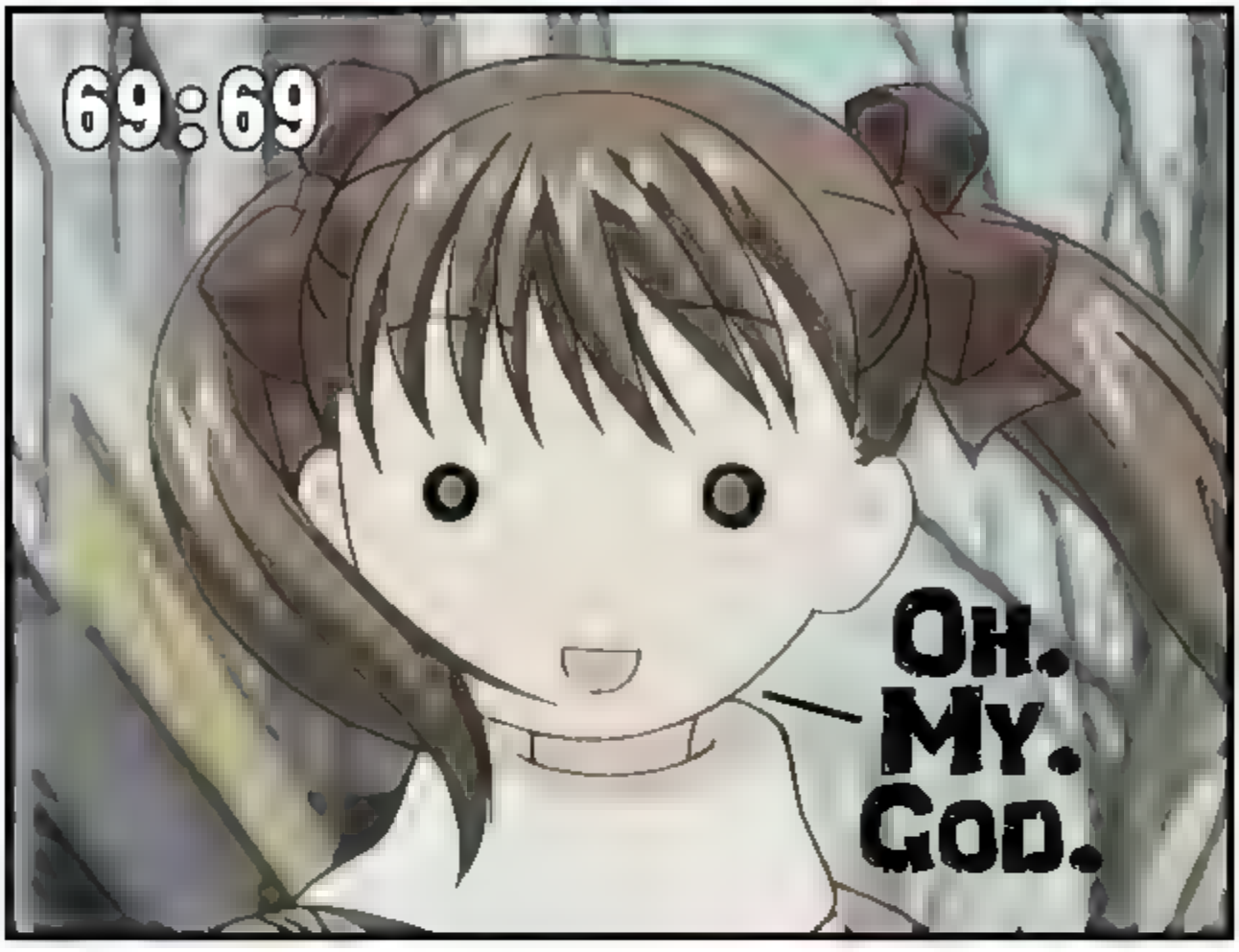
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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Chapter 5 Secrets

EVER SINCE THE DAY

WHEN YANO TAMAKI FINALLY ACCEPTED ME,

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE

TO KEEP FROM SEEKING OUT THE NEW SENSATIONS

BROUGHT TO ME BY HER SKIN, FINGERS, AND TONGUE.

WHY? BUSY WRITING?

OH, RYUUJI? IT'S ME.——

I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT TOMORROW.

NO, FORGET THAT SORRY, I KNOW THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM

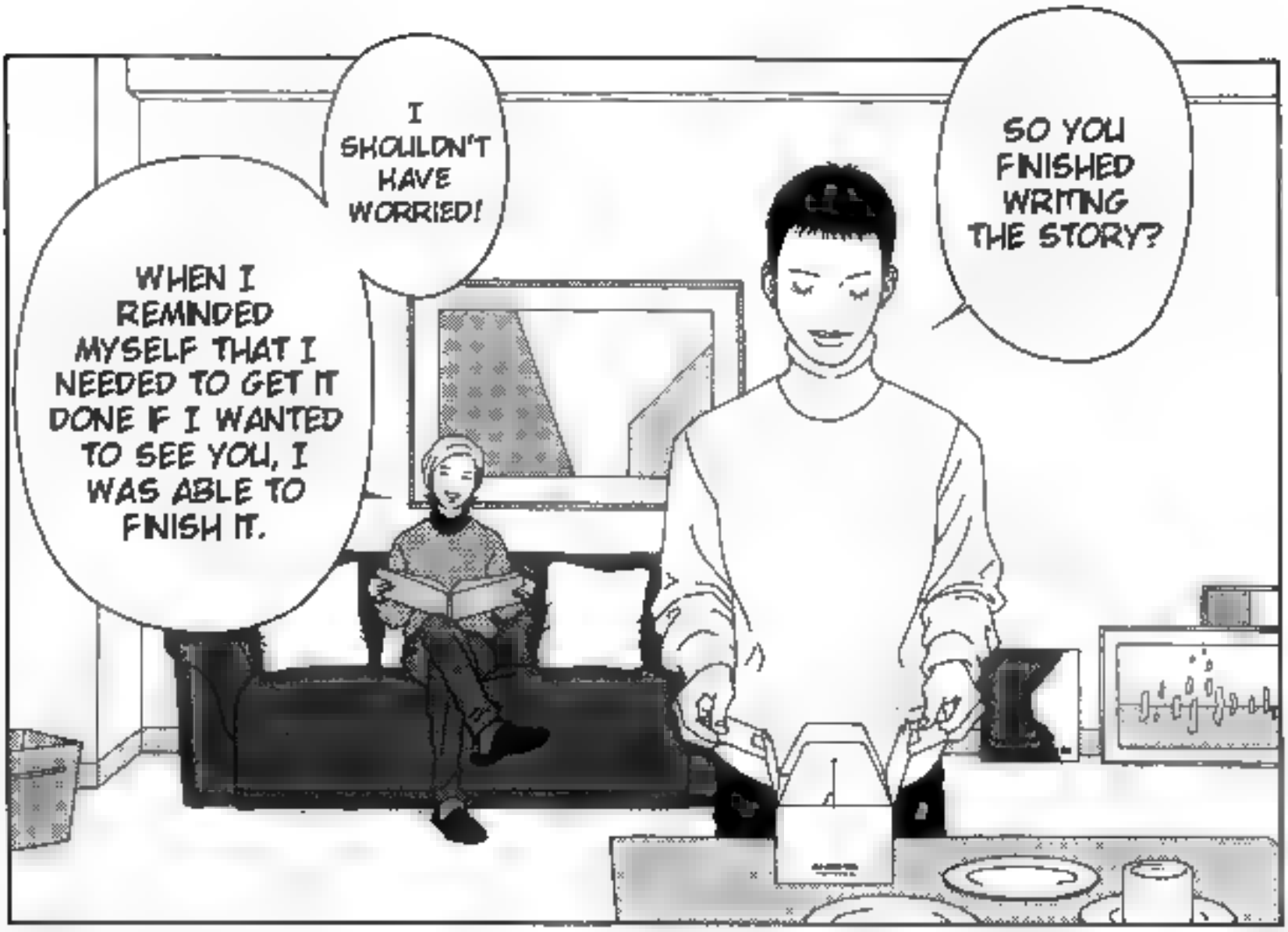
I UNDERSTAND IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE A MEMORIAL SERVICE TO GO TO NEXT WEEKEND, SO I WANTED TO SEE YOU TOMORROW

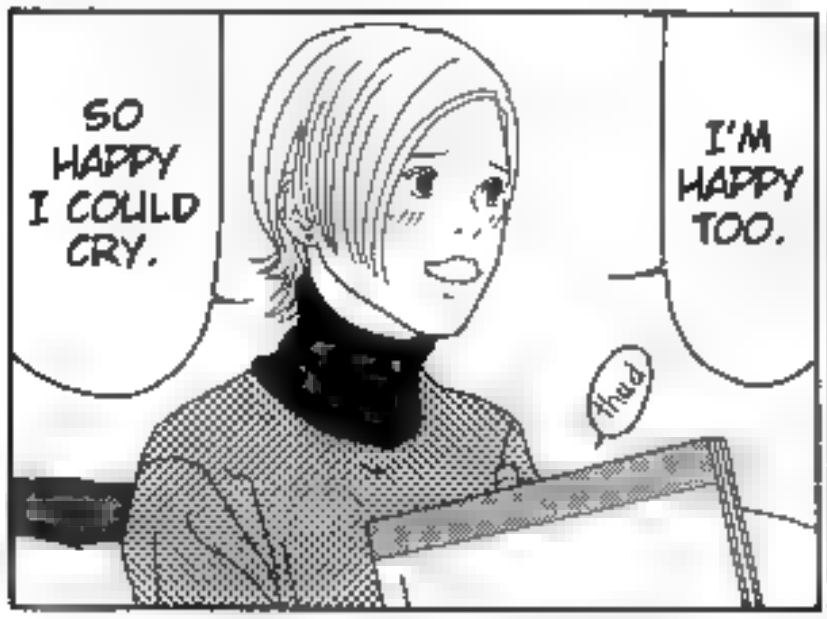
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME WITH A 20-PAGE SHORT STORY, AND THE DEADLINE'S MONDAY. I NEED SOME MORE FREE TIME TO WORK ON IT.

YOU SURE YOU CAN'T MAKE SOME TIME FOR ME TODAY?

YEAH. THANKS.

WELL, ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK WITH THE STORY

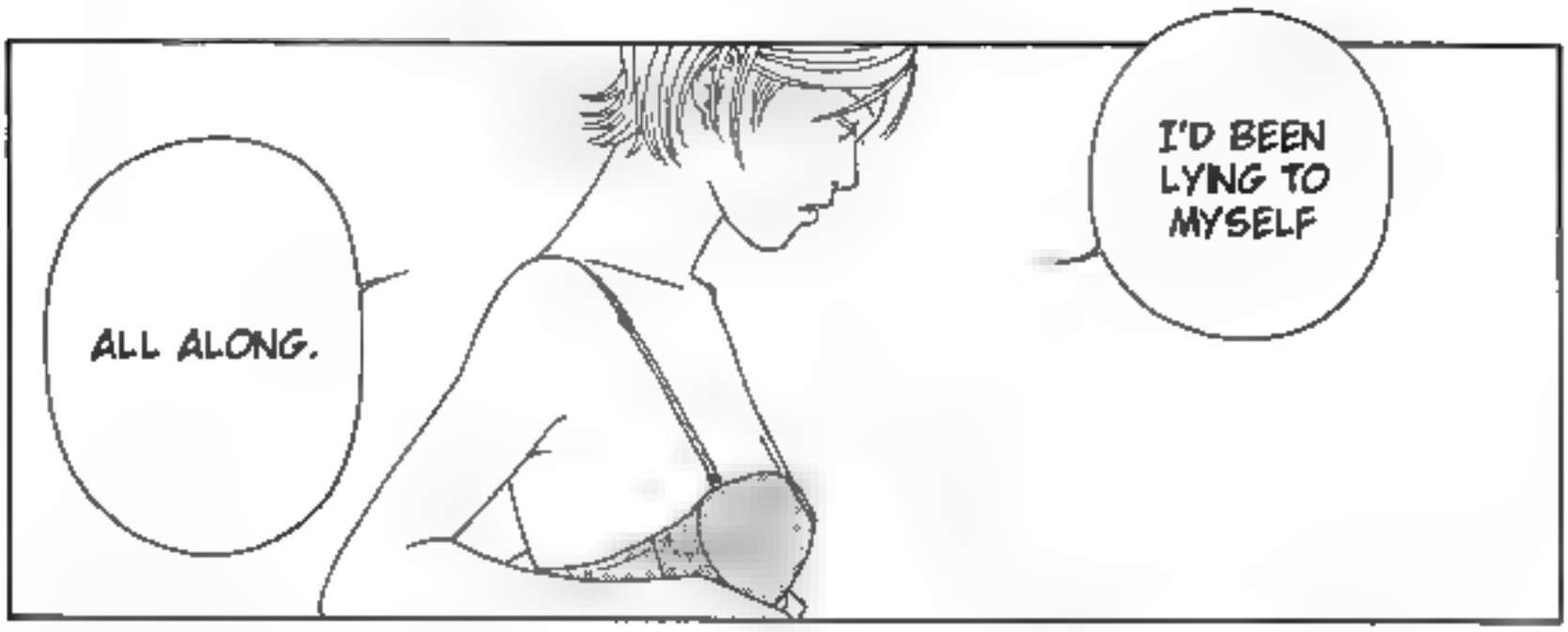

I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED!
WHEN I REMINDED MYSELF THAT I NEEDED TO GET IT DONE IF I WANTED TO SEE YOU, I WAS ABLE TO FINISH IT.
SO YOU FINISHED WRITING THE STORY?


SO HAPPY I COULD CRY.
I'M HAPPY TOO.
thud

IT REALLY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HAD A GIRLFRIEND TO LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING.
THIS IS FUN.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE WHEN YOU CRY, RUTSU.
hehe
YOU'RE SO CUTE.

AH.


I'D BEEN LYING TO MYSELF
ALL ALONG.

IT WAS THAT I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE BELIEF THAT A RESPECTABLE WOMAN SHOULD ONLY
HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEN.

LYING?

IT WASN'T SO MUCH THAT I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO COME OUT.

I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER ANYMORE. SO I DIDN'T ACT ON MY FEELINGS.

AT COLLEGE... I FELL IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS WITH A WOMAN.

SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND. I THOUGHT THAT IF I CONFESSED MY FEELINGS TO HER,

I TURNED MY FEELINGS FOR HER INTO HETEROSEXUAL LOVE.

IT WAS FRUS-TRATING, AND SO I STARTED WRITING A STORY ABOUT IT.

BUT EVEN IN THE STORY,

SO

GIVES A PART OF ME SOME PEACE OF MIND.

I'VE ONLY BEEN DATING MEN...

I CAN DATE MEN IF I GET THE URGE TO.

THAT FACT

DID YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND WHEN YOU MET ME?

I DID, BUT WE BROKE UP PRETTY SOON AFTER THAT.

I ONLY HAD EYES FOR YOU.

HUH?

SO YOU WENT OUT WITH THOSE MEN EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T LOVE THEM?

I FEEL A LITTLE SORRY

FOR THOSE MEN.

IT TURNED OUT

clink

THAT YANO-SAN DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MOROI, THAT ARTIST, EITHER.

SO YOU'RE GIVING UP ON HIM?

YES. IT'LL BE A CLEAN BREAK.

WELL, I GUESS HE AND I HAD NOTHING CONNECTING US.

IF YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN YOUR BOYFRIEND ANYMORE,

BREAK UP WITH HIM.

HEY, RUTSU.

YES?

I HAD A BUSINESS MEETING WITH RYUUJI.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D REALLY SEEN HIM SINCE GETTING TOGETHER WITH TAMAKI-SAN.

WELL, I'M GLAD YOU SEEM WELL.

YEAH. DITTO.

hehe

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE TO JUST GO HOLE UP IN A HOTEL ROOM WITH YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL GET TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

IRISAWA RYOUICHI, THE WRITER. HE REALLY PRAISED YOUR LATEST WORK.

OH, I SAW IRISAWA-SAN YESTERDAY.

RYUUJI, I-

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU— TO HAVE A GREAT WRITER LIKE THAT ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ABILITY...

YES. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE SECOND INSTALLMENT IS GOOD TOO.

IRI-SAWA-SAN SAID THAT?

REALLY !?

HE SAID, "NAKA-GAWA-SAN IS A GOOD THINKER."

RU-TSU.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MARRYING YOU.

YEAH ?

EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, ACTU-ALLY.

HUH?

MY ANSWER IS NO.

I'M NOT GOING TO MARRY ANYONE.

YOU CAN WAIT TO GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER UNTIL AFTER THE SERIALIZED STORY IS DONE. THINK IT OVER.

HUH?

YOU MAY FEEL THAT WAY NOW,

BUT WHAT ABOUT IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME?

YOU KNOW?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?

ha ha

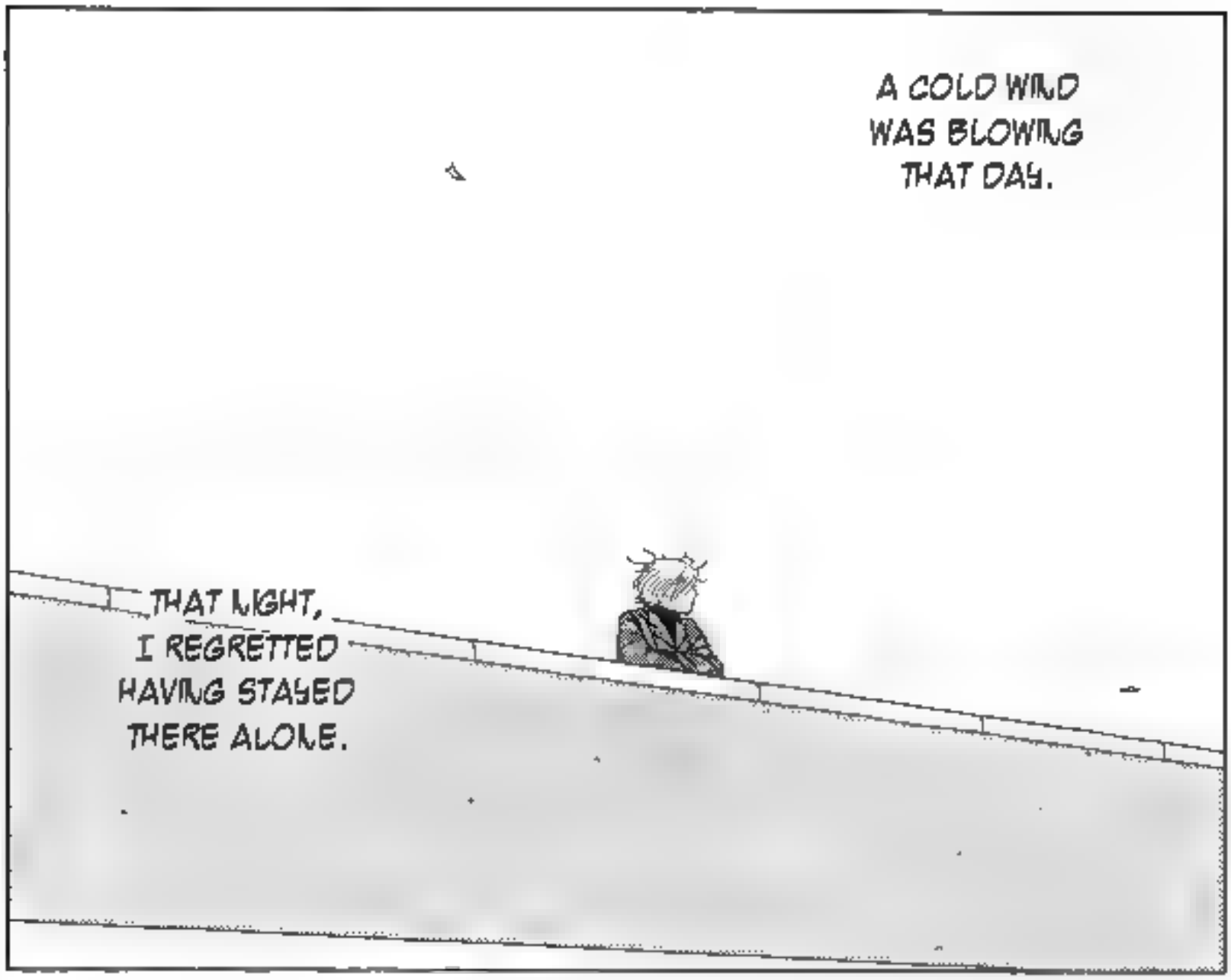
I NEVER EXPECTED TO GET AN EASY YES OUT OF YOU.

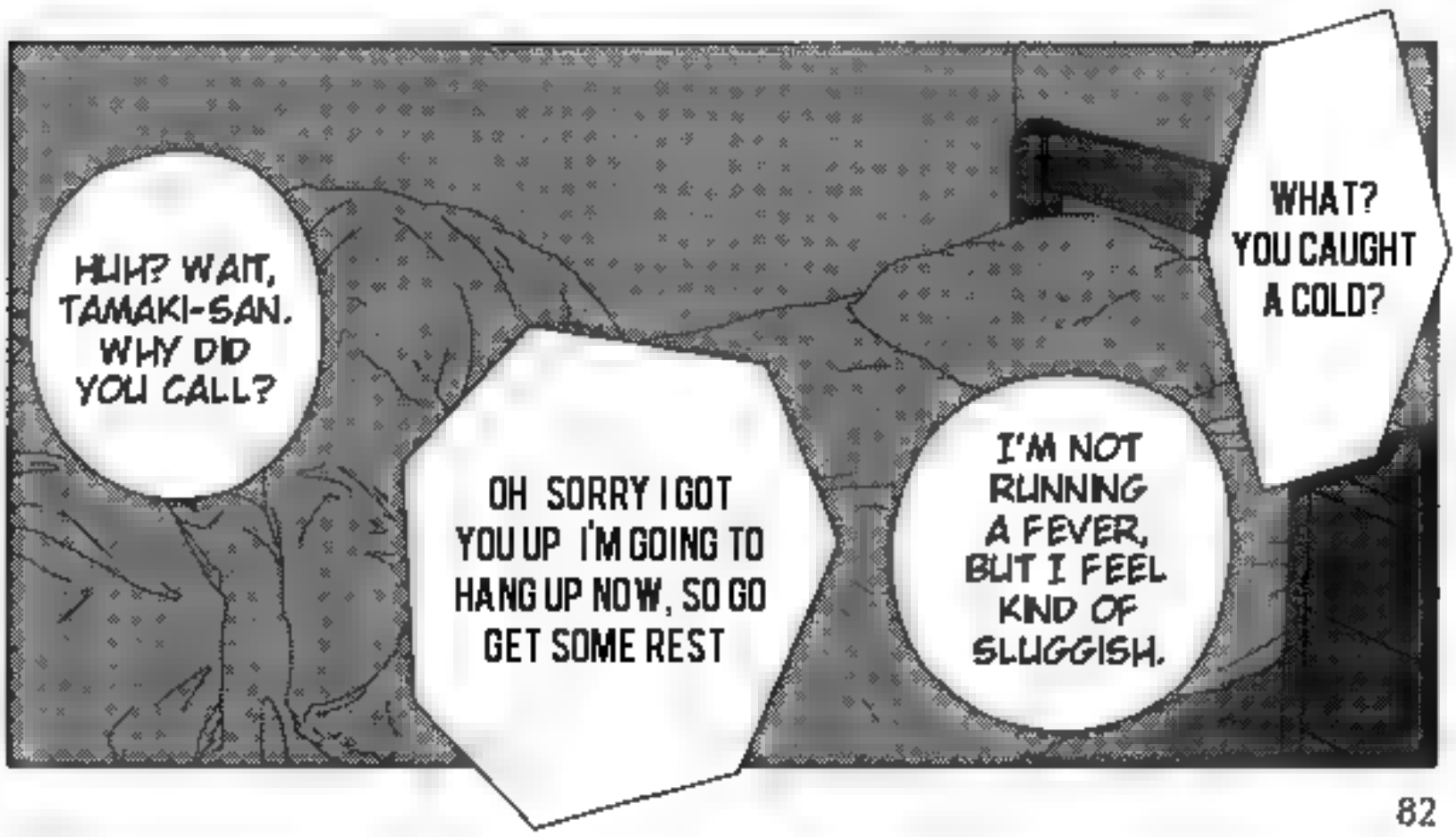
PRETEND TO BE SO HEARTLESS.

THE WAY YOU

I'M GOING TO STAY HERE A WHILE LONGER.

WELL, I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK TO WORK NOW.


A COLD WIND WAS BLOWING THAT DAY.
THAT NIGHT, I REGRETTED HAVING STAYED THERE ALONE.


HUH? WAIT, TAMAKI-SAN. WHY DID YOU CALL?
OH SORRY I GOT YOU UP I'M GOING TO HANG UP NOW, SO GO GET SOME REST
I'M NOT RUNNING A FEVER, BUT I FEEL KIND OF SLUGGISH.
WHAT? YOU CAUGHT A COLD?

WHAT?

I LOVE YOU, RUTSU

JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT

GOOD NIGHT

THAT
YOU MIGHT AS WELL SPEAK NOTHING BUT LIES!

MIGHT REALLY HAPPEN...

Indigo Blue

Chapter 5

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

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Edited by Sailor Avalon

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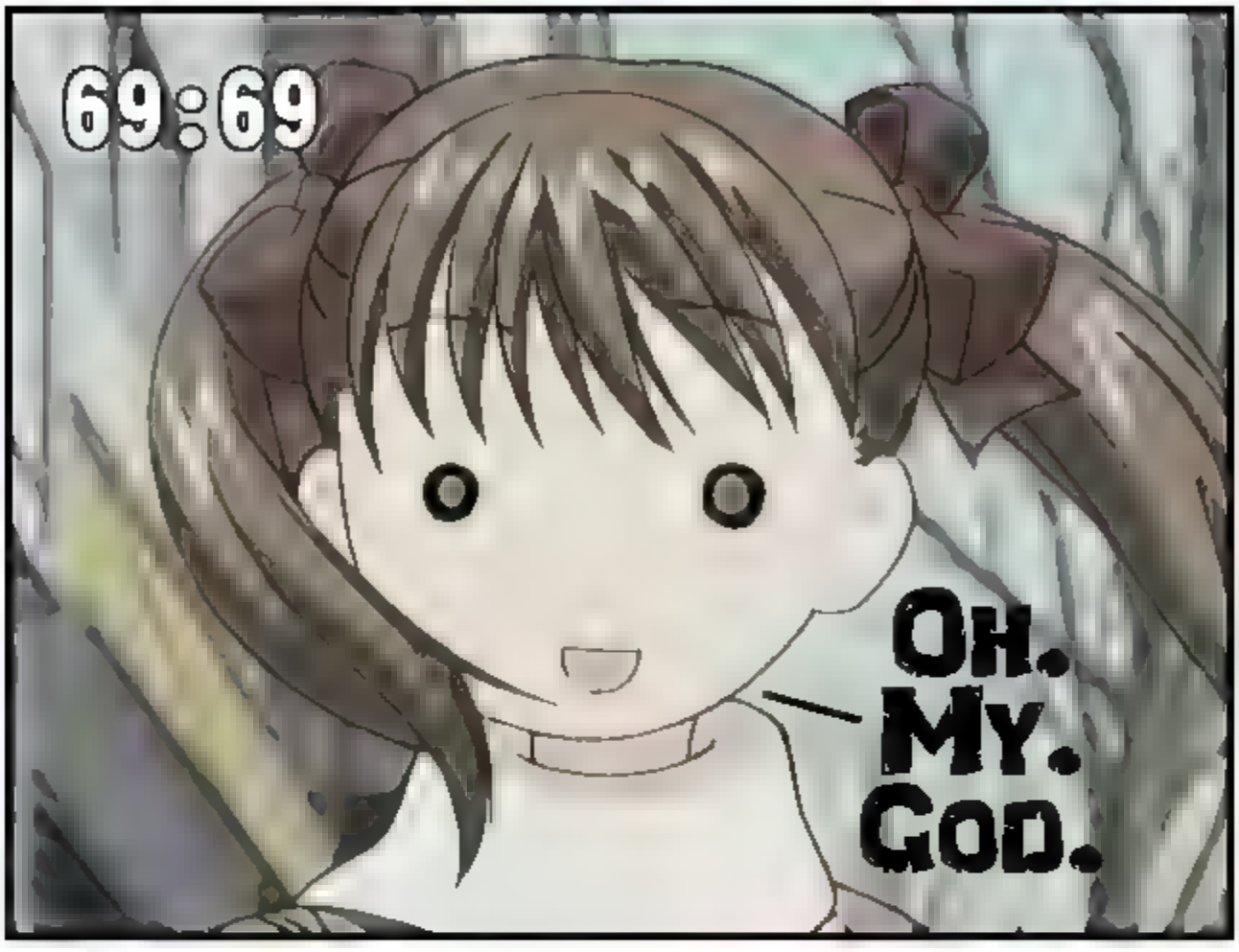
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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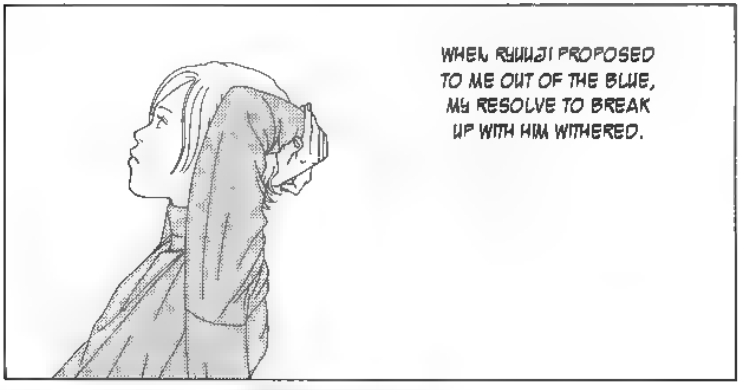
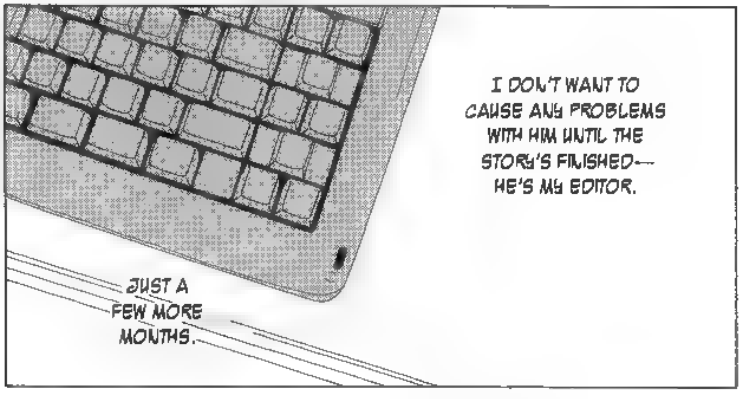
Chapter 6 Novelist

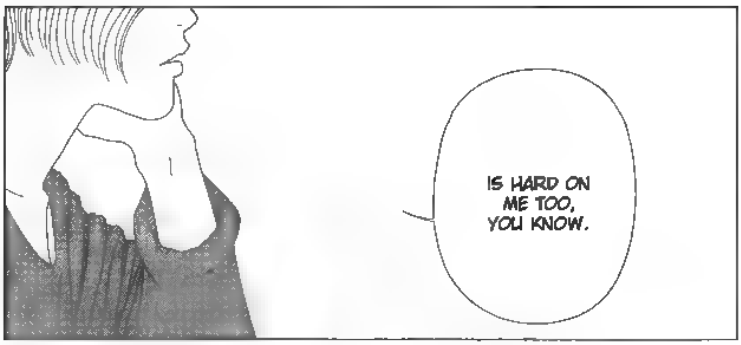




THEN IT'LL BE OVER WITH.

HOW'S THE SECOND INSTALLMENT COMING?
IT'S GOING WELL. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT FINISHED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.
AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU TODAY?
HUH?
YOU THINK SO?
MAYBE IT'S YOUR CLOTHING.
IT MAKES YOUR SKIN LOOK LIGHTER.
YOU DON'T USUALLY WEAR THAT SHADE OF RED.
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE IT'S SPRING. THE SUN IS BRIGHTER.

I'LL COME SEE YOU THIS WEEK-END.
EVEN IF YOU'RE BUSY, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPARE AN HOUR, RIGHT?
I FEEL LIKE WE HAVEN'T SLEPT TOGETHER IN A LONG TIME.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, RYUUJI.
I'LL DEFINITELY COME SEE YOU THIS SATURDAY.
IF WE TRY TO WAIT UNTIL IT'S A CONVENIENT TIME FOR YOU, IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN.
NOT SEEING YOU


IS HARD ON ME TOO, YOU KNOW.

AH.
AH.
MM!

WOW, RUTSU.
YOUR TECHNIQUE IS SURPRI-SINGLY GOOD.
OH, NO. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE GOOD TECHNIQUE, TAMAKI-SAN.
I JUST COPIED WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING TO ME.
IF I HAD TO PICK ONE OR THE OTHER, I'D CHOOSE TO MAKE LOVE TO SOMEONE ELSE RATHER THAN HAVE HER MAKE LOVE TO ME,
BUT YOU COULD TOUCH ME FOREVER AND I'D BE HAPPY, RUTSU.
HM?

I WISH I'D MET YOU SOONER.
I WISH WE'D GOTTEN TOGETHER SOONER.
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE OUT WITH ANY MEN.
I REALLY RESPECT YOU, TAMAKI-SAN.
YOU WERE ABLE TO LIVE AS A LESBIAN FROM THE TIME YOU WERE 14.
RIGHT?
THOSE MEN WERE JUST PEOPLE WHO PASSED THROUGH YOUR LIFE.
AND TO CHOOSE ONE PATH
IS TO DISCARD ALL OTHERS.

I ONLY EVER HAD ONE PATH TO CHOOSE FROM.
THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER PATH FOR ME TO DISCARD, RUTSU.

THERE WAS NO CHANCE I'D TAKE THE WRONG ONE.

SORRY I'M LATE.
I BOUGHT SOME BREAD AND CHEESE.

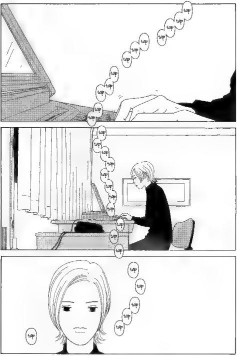
HM?
I GOT ROQUEFORT AND BRIE. HOPE THAT'S OKAY.
THE LONG, PASSIONATE KISS HE GAVE ME
ROUSED MY PITY.

I FORGOT ALL ABOUT TAMAKI.

I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE,
BUT I ENTERED THAT LITERARY COMPETITION
click click
THAT YOU WON THE "BEST NEW WRITER" AWARD IN.
HUH?
YOU DID?
I USED A PEN NAME.
I MADE IT TO THE FINALS.
THAT'S WHEN I FIRST REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A WRITER IN THE COMPETITION
WHO HAD THE SAME NAME AS A GIRL THAT WAS IN THAT SEMINAR WITH ME.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS REALLY THE SAME PERSON.
WHEN YOU WON THE AWARD,
I REALIZED YOU WERE THE SAME PERSON. IT REALLY SHOOK ME UP.
TO BE HONEST, I'D NEVER BOUGHT ANY OF YOUR WORKS BEFORE THAT.

he he
I SEE.
WELL, LONG STORY SHORT, YOUNG WOMEN WRITERS AREN'T REALLY MY THING.
IT MADE ME REALIZE I WAS LACKING
SOME-THING FUNDA-MENTAL.
BUT WHEN I READ THE WORK YOU'D SUBMITTED TO THE CONTEST, IT COMPLETELY FLOORED ME.
SO I STOPPED WRITING.
YOU HAD NO REASON TO STOP!
I LIKED ALL THE PIECES YOU READ IN THE SEMINAR.

THEY HAD A CONSI-DERABLE NFLUENCE
ON ME.
REAL-LY?
MY JEA-LOUSY
IT TOOK ME TIME TO GET OVER
HUNH. YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
OF YOUR TALENT.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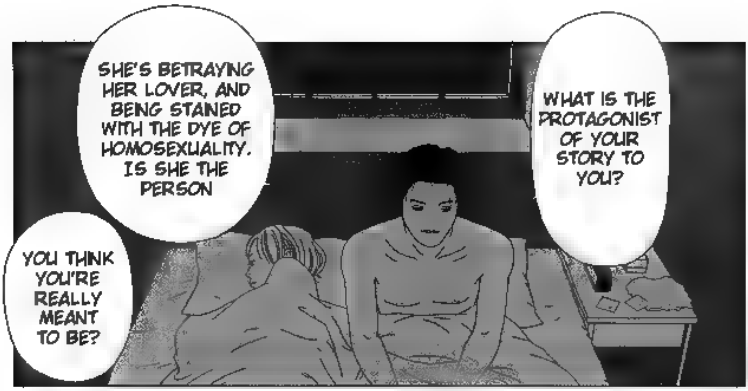
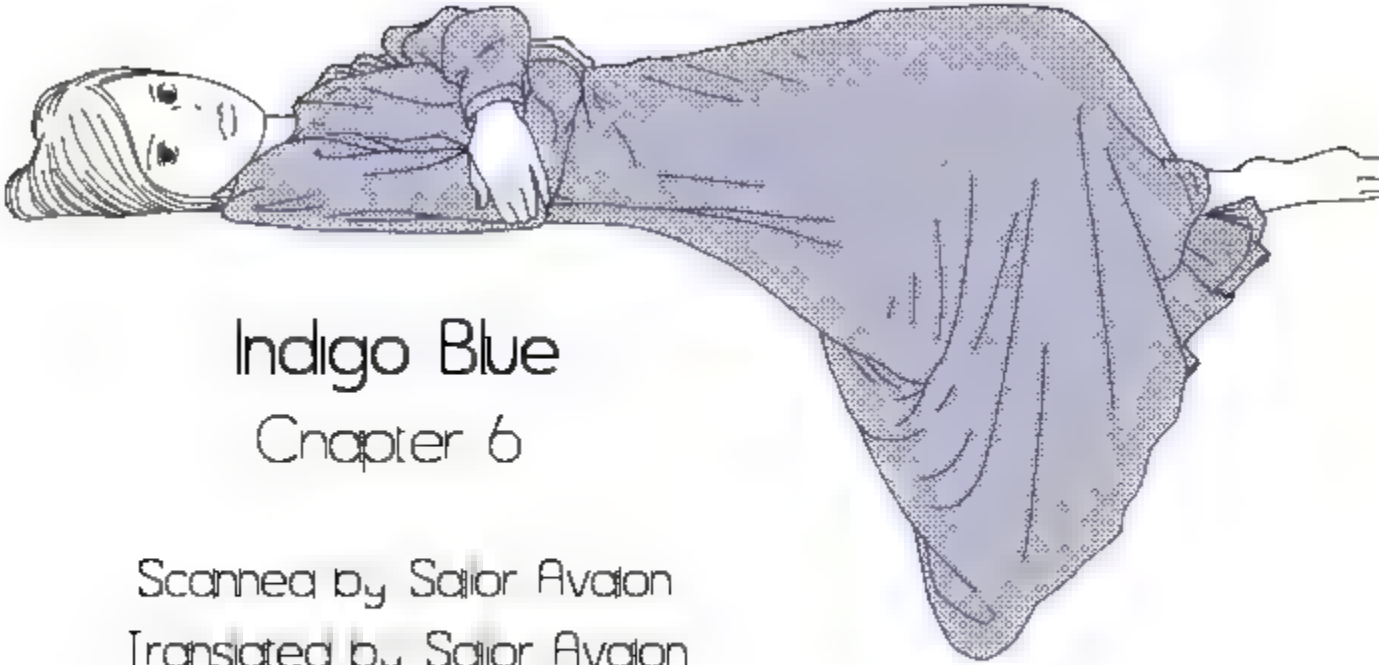
"YOU KNOW, YOU'RE A WRITER. AS A WRITER, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NEW AREAS TO EXPLORE. THAT'S ALL."


SHE'S BETRAYING HER LOVER, AND BEING STAINED WITH THE DYE OF HOMOSEXUALITY. IS SHE THE PERSON
WHAT IS THE PROTAGONIST OF YOUR STORY TO YOU?
YOU THINK YOU'RE REALLY MEANT TO BE?

RUTSU, I WANT TO KNOW THE REAL YOU.
I DIDN'T ANSWER HIM.



Indigo Blue

Chapter 6

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW

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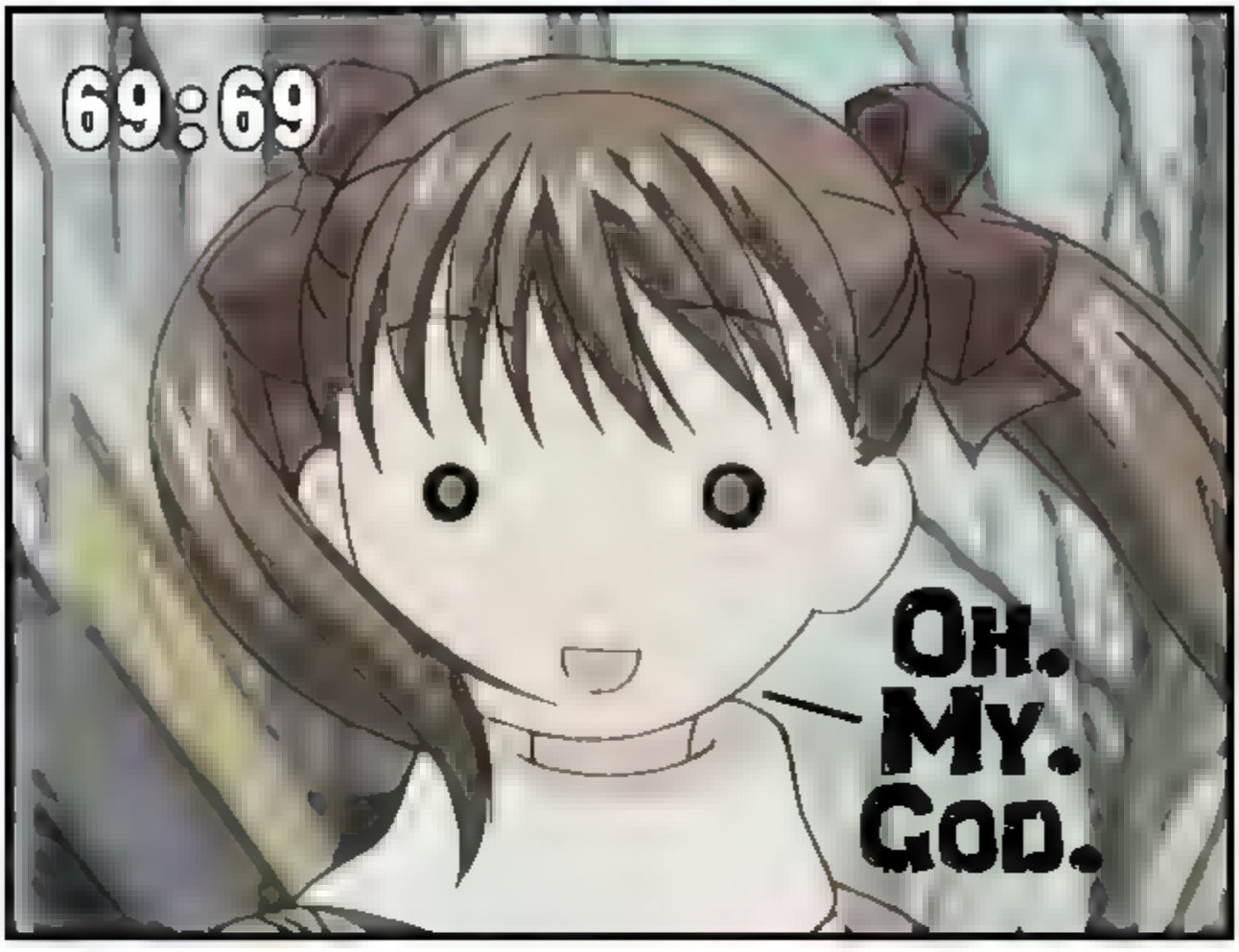
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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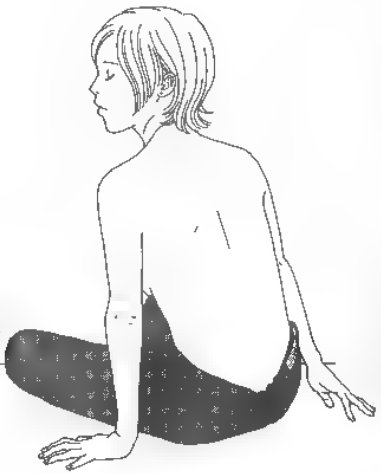
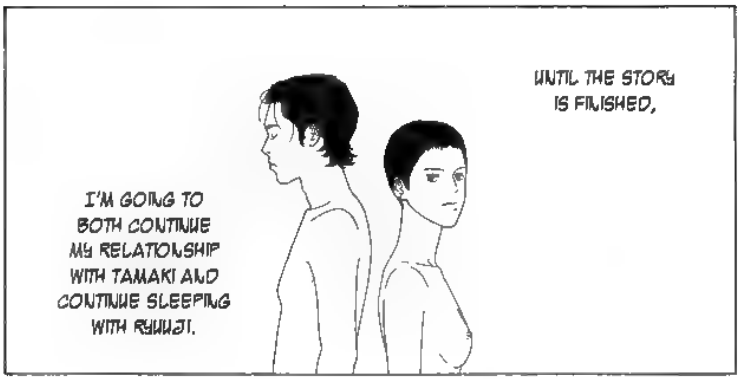
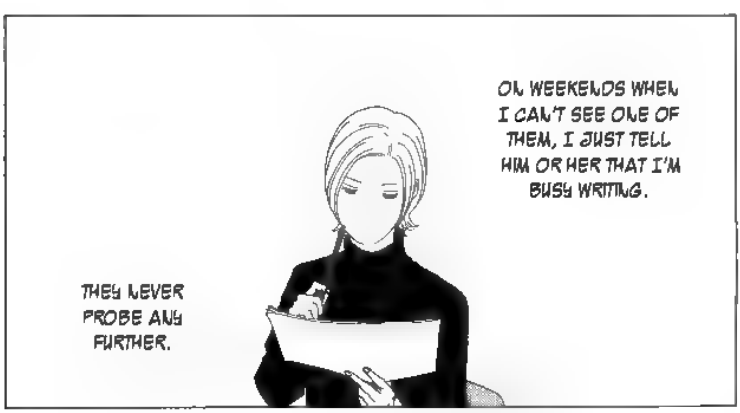
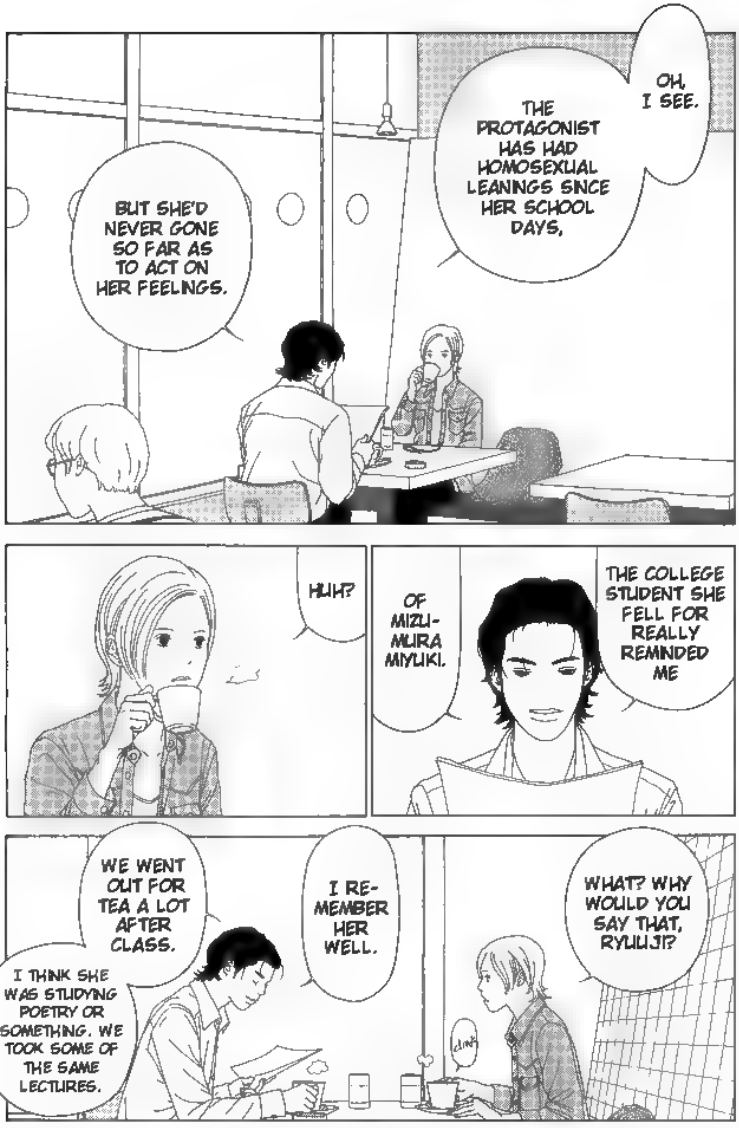
Chapter 7 A Brief Moment

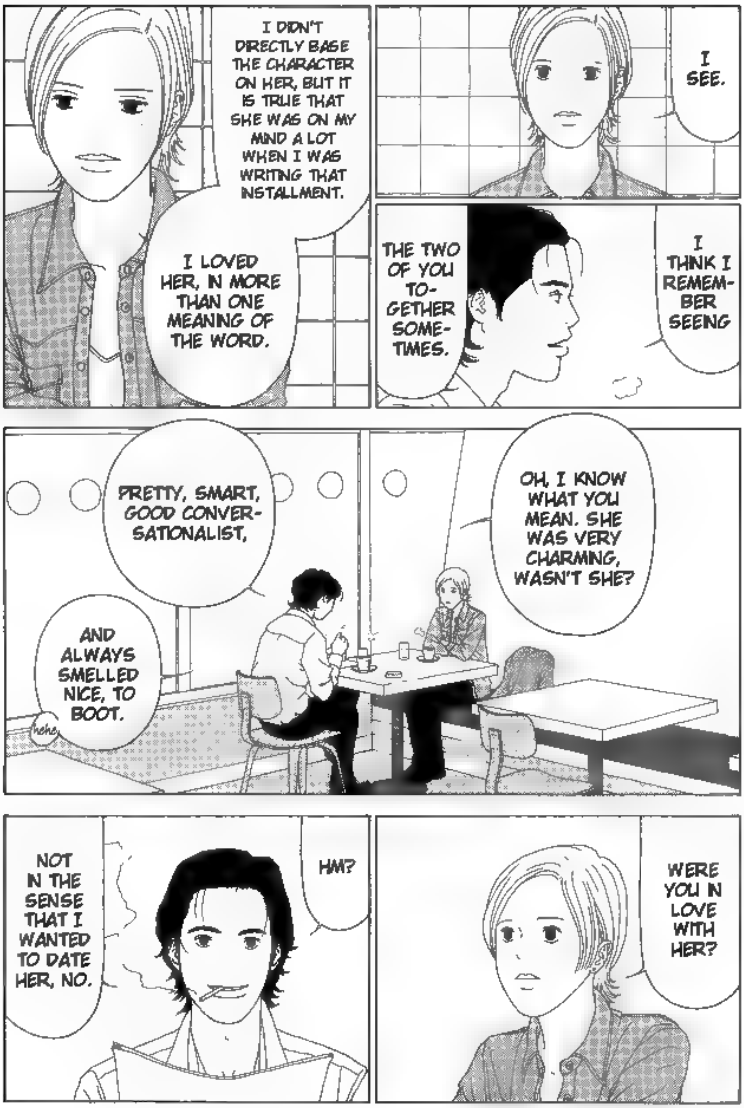






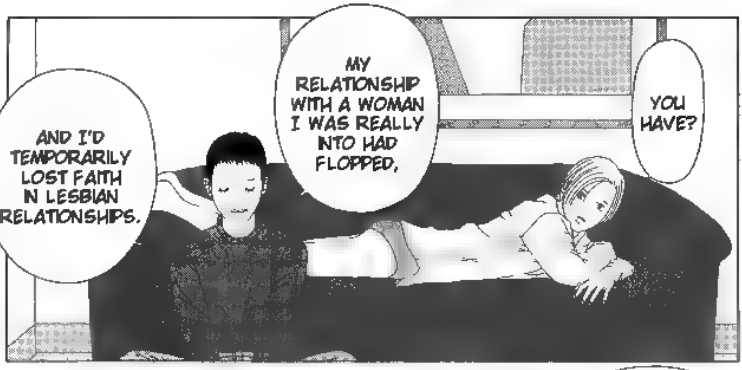
I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THIS OKAY.

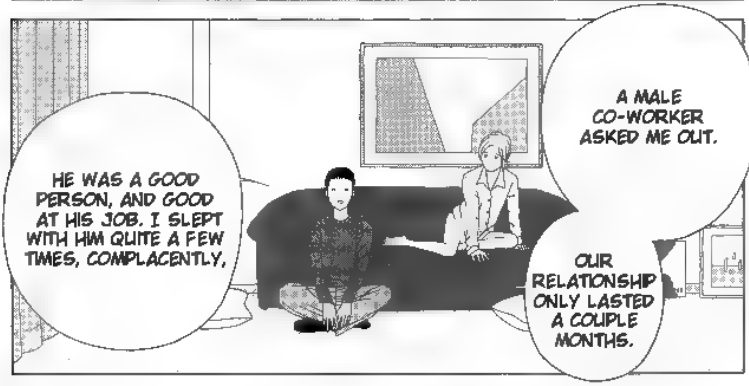

OH, I SEE.
THE PROTAGONIST HAS HAD HOMOSEXUAL LEANINGS SNCE HER SCHOOL DAYS,
BUT SHE'D NEVER GONE SO FAR AS TO ACT ON HER FEELINGS.
HUH?
OF MIZU-MURA MIYUKI.
THE COLLEGE STUDENT SHE FELL FOR REALLY REMINDED ME
WHAT? WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT, RYUUJI?
I RE-MEMBER HER WELL.
WE WENT OUT FOR TEA A LOT AFTER CLASS.
I THINK SHE WAS STUDYNG POETRY OR SOMETHNG. WE TOOK SOME OF THE SAME LECTURES.


I DIDN'T DIRECTLY BASE THE CHARACTER ON HER, BUT IT IS TRUE THAT SHE WAS ON MY MIND A LOT WHEN I WAS WRITING THAT INSTALLMENT.
I LOVED HER, IN MORE THAN ONE MEANING OF THE WORD.
I SEE.
I THINK I REMEMBER SEEING THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER SOMETIMES.
OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. SHE WAS VERY CHARMING, WASN'T SHE?
PRETTY, SMART, GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST,
AND ALWAYS SMELLED NICE, TO BOOT.
hehe
WERE YOU IN LOVE WITH HER?
HM?
NOT IN THE SENSE THAT I WANTED TO DATE HER, NO.

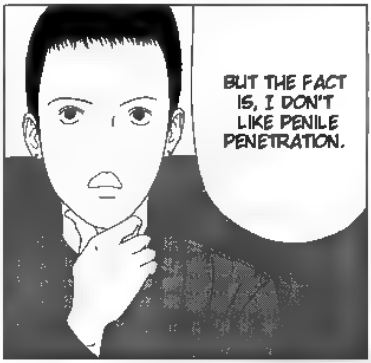
YOU DIDN'T WANT HER TO FALL INTO HOMO-SEXUALITY?
hehe
NO, YOU.
YOU ENDED IT WELL.
I LIKE... THE FACT THAT THESE TWO CHARACTERS DIDN'T GET TOGETHER.
IT'S NOTHING.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. SORRY.
ME?
THIS STORY ISN'T ABOUT YOU, AFTER ALL.
sigh
THAT WAS STUPID OF ME.

NO CAN DO. I CAN'T STOP NOW.
AHN! WAIT A MINUTE! LET ME TAKE A SHOWER FIRST, PLEASE.
AH...
HEY, TAMAKI-SAN.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN WITH A MAN?
YES, I HAVE.


AND I'D TEMPORARILY LOST FAITH IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS.
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH A WOMAN I WAS REALLY INTO HAD FLOPPED,
YOU HAVE?


HE WAS A GOOD PERSON, AND GOOD AT HIS JOB. I SLEPT WITH HIM QUITE A FEW TIMES, COMPLACENTLY,
A MALE CO-WORKER ASKED ME OUT.
OUR RELATIONSHIP ONLY LASTED A COUPLE MONTHS.

hehe
WHAT?

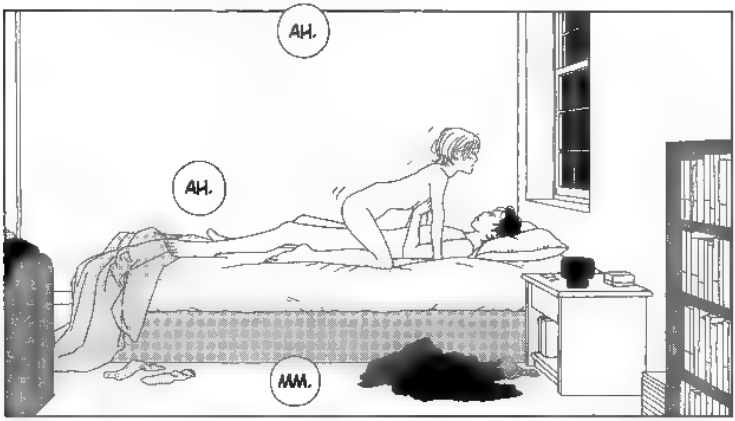

BUT THE FACT IS, I DON'T LIKE PENILE PENETRATION.

hehe
hehe hehe he
hehe
IF A MAN EVER ASKS IF HE CAN PUT A FINGER IN YOUR ANUS,
NARROW YOUR EYES AT HIM AS IF TO SAY, "YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING! NOT ON YOUR LIFE!"
YOU DON'T SEEM TO MIND IT, THOUGH.
SLEEPING WITH MEN.
HUH?
PEOPLE DON'T DO THINGS THEY'RE REALLY OPPOSED TO.
DOES IT FEEL GOOD?
YES, IT DOES.
I DON'T MIND IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

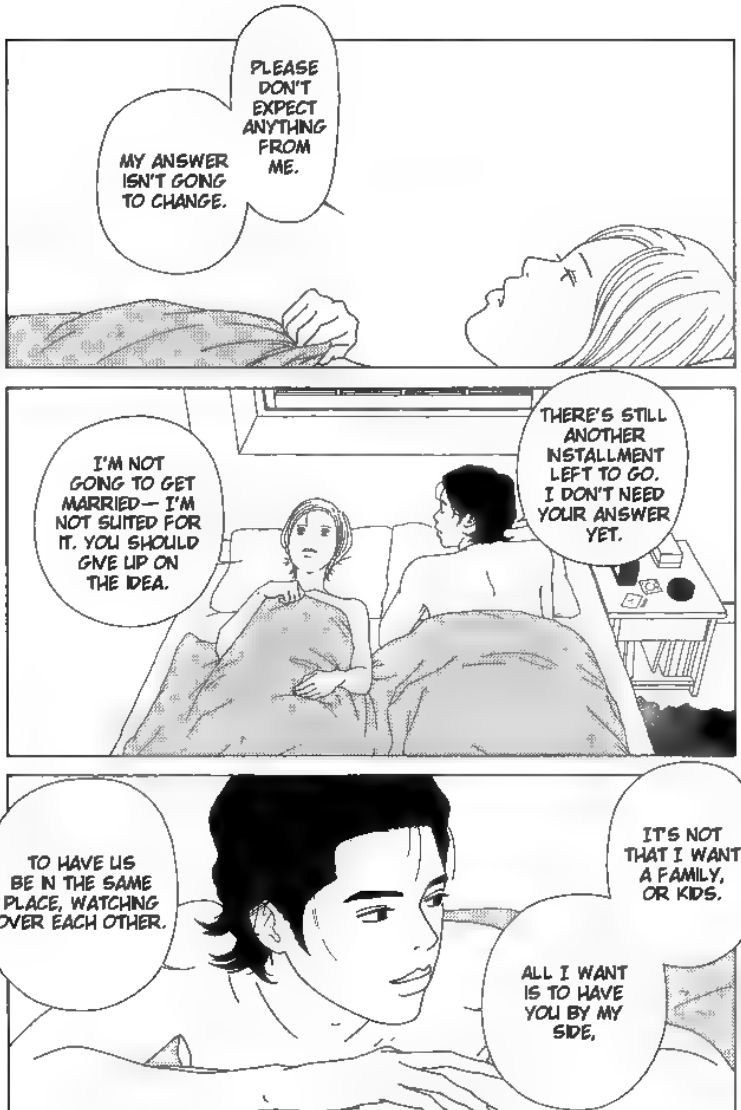
I NEVER DEVELOP ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
BUT WHOEVER I'M WITH,
WHEN I'M WITH A MAN, I JUST FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.
I THOUGHT I WASN'T CAPABLE OF LOVE.
THEN I MET YOU, TAMAKI-SAN.
YOU SAVED ME.

OH, SO YOU'RE NOT BREAKING UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND AFTER ALL.
IS THAT WISE?
SIP
SIP
HE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU, SO HE'S NEARLY 30, RIGHT?
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE, HE MIGHT BE.
HAS HE EVER BROUGHT IT UP?
HE'S AT A POINT WHERE HE'S JUST STARTED TO ENJOY HIS JOB. I DON'T THINK HE'S INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE RIGHT NOW.
REALLY? IF HE HAS A PROMISING FUTURE,
IT'S EVEN MORE LIKELY THAT HE'LL WANT TO GET MARRIED, ISN'T IT?
I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM SOMETIME.
SIP
NO WAY.
WHY NOT?
SIP
BECAUSE HE'S NO MATCH FOR YOU

OH,
REAL-
LY?
IN THE
LOOKS
DEPART-
MENT.


AH.
AH.
MM.

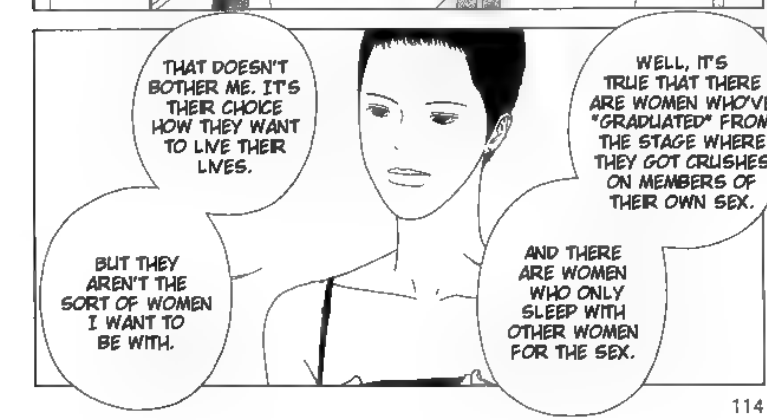
AH!

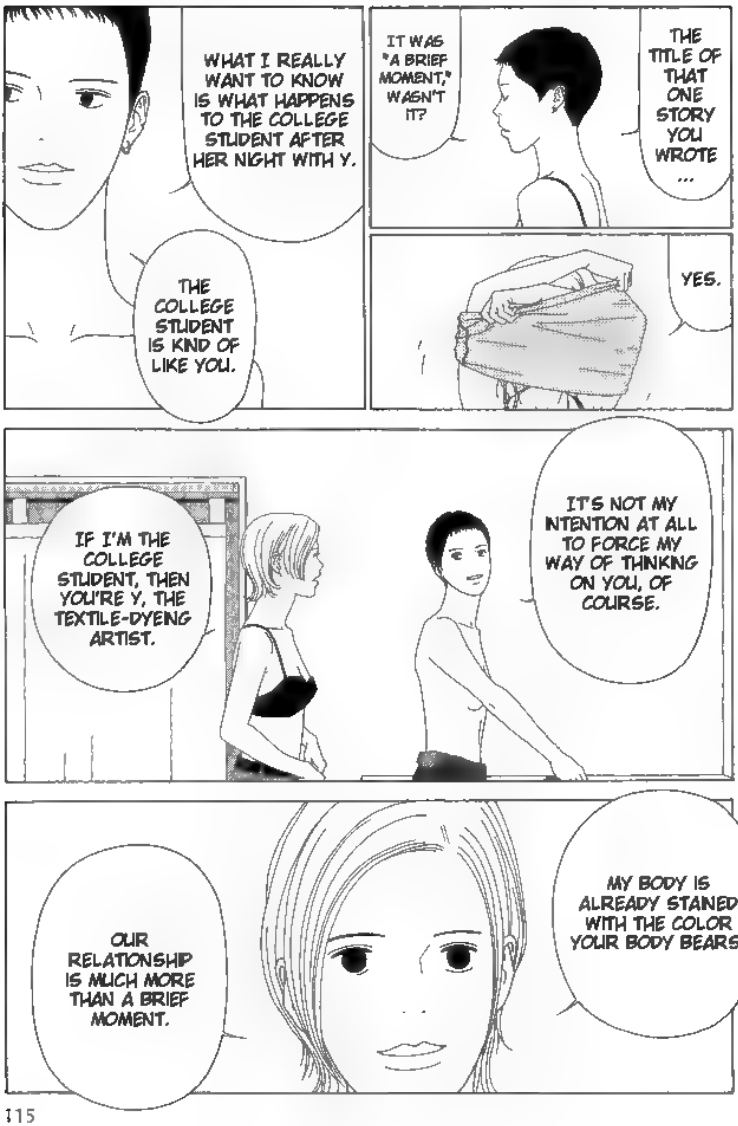

PLEASE DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ME.
MY ANSWER ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE.
I'M NOT GOING TO GET MARRIED— I'M NOT SUITED FOR IT. YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON THE IDEA.
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER INSTALLMENT LEFT TO GO. I DON'T NEED YOUR ANSWER YET.
TO HAVE US BE IN THE SAME PLACE, WATCHING OVER EACH OTHER.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT A FAMILY, OR KIDS.
ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE.

YOU'RE COLDER TO ME THAN ANYONE ELSE I'VE EVER BEEN WITH.
hehe
I THINK IT'S STRANGE TOO. WHY AM I SO ATTACHED TO YOU?
HUH?
ISN'T IT THAT YOU WANT TO WRITE A STORY?
I GET THAT FEELING FROM YOU.
ME?
OH, SATURDAY ?

I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM EITHER MOVIE.
THEY WERE BOTH OLDER WORKS DONE BY MEN.
SO YOU SAW A LESBIAN DOUBLE FEATURE. HOW WAS IT?

AND THE OTHER
ONLY PORTRAYED IT AS HORNY WOMEN WANTING TO FOOL AROUND.
ONE TOOK THE POSITION THAT HOMOSEXUALITY WAS JUST "PRELIMINARY PRACTICE AT RELATIONSHIPS" FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS.


THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME. IT'S THEIR CHOICE HOW THEY WANT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES.
BUT THEY AREN'T THE SORT OF WOMEN I WANT TO BE WITH.
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE WOMEN WHO'VE "GRADUATED" FROM THE STAGE WHERE THEY GOT CRUSHES ON MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN SEX.
AND THERE ARE WOMEN WHO ONLY SLEEP WITH OTHER WOMEN FOR THE SEX.


WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COLLEGE STUDENT AFTER HER NIGHT WITH Y.
THE COLLEGE STUDENT IS KIND OF LIKE YOU.
IT WAS "A BRIEF MOMENT," WASN'T IT?
THE TITLE OF THAT ONE STORY YOU WROTE ...
YES.
IF I'M THE COLLEGE STUDENT, THEN YOU'RE Y, THE TEXTILE-DYEING ARTIST.
IT'S NOT MY INTENTION AT ALL TO FORCE MY WAY OF THINKING ON YOU, OF COURSE.
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS MUCH MORE THAN A BRIEF MOMENT.
MY BODY IS ALREADY STAINED WITH THE COLOR YOUR BODY BEARS.

"IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THIS OKAY."

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I REPEATED THAT PHRASE

OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND, SO MANY TIMES.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 7

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW

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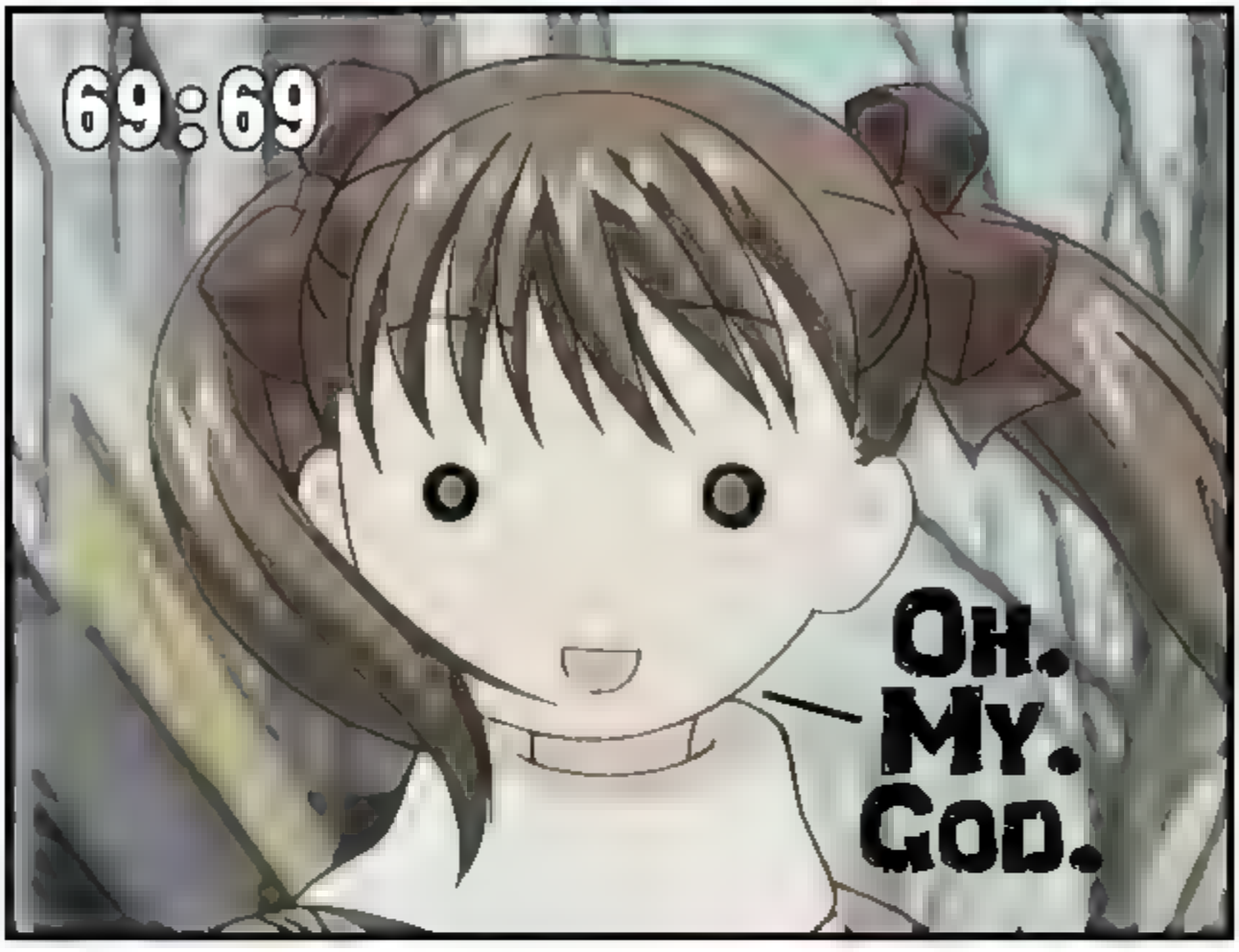
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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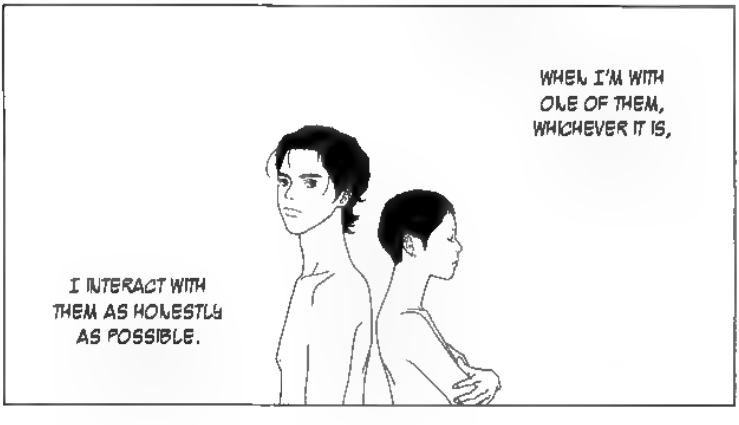
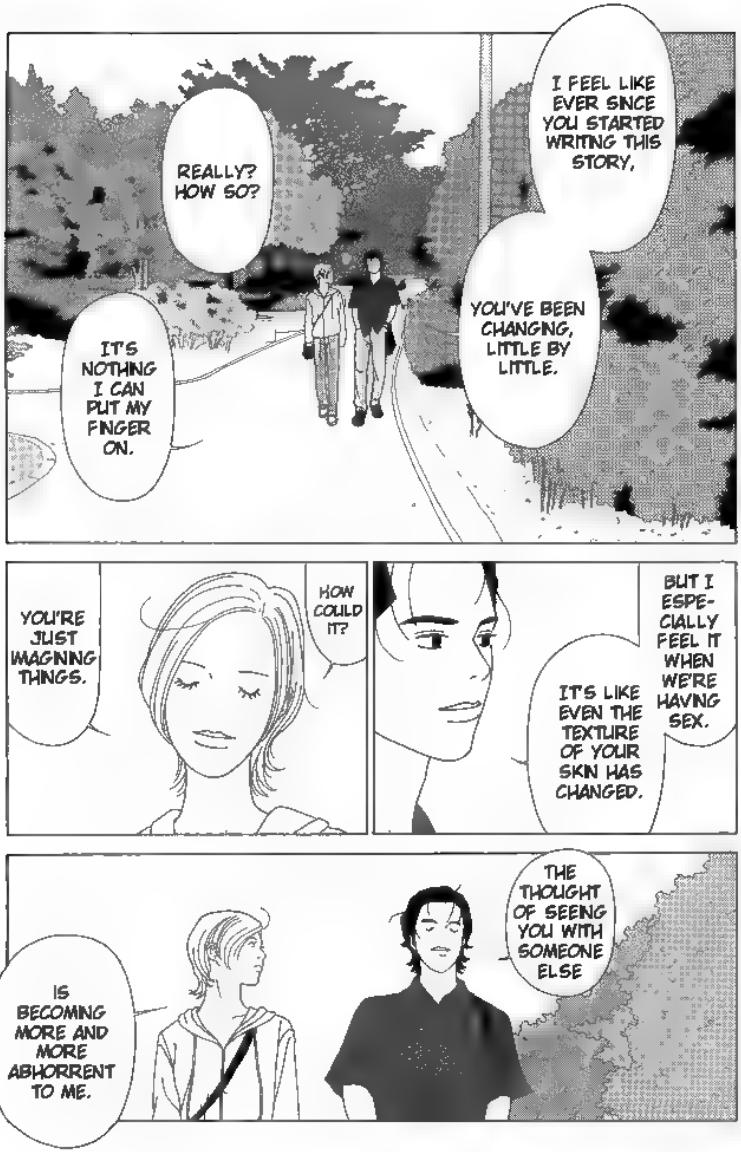
Chapter 8 _es



THAT, AT LEAST, IS NO LIE.


I FEEL LIKE EVER SINCE YOU STARTED WRITING THIS STORY,
YOU'VE BEEN CHANGING, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
REALLY? HOW SO?
IT'S NOTHING I CAN PUT MY FINGER ON.
BUT I ESPE-CIALLY FEEL IT WHEN WE'RE HAVING SEX.
IT'S LIKE EVEN THE TEXTURE OF YOUR SKIN HAS CHANGED.
HOW COULD IT?
YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS.
THE THOUGHT OF SEEING YOU WITH SOMEONE ELSE
IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE ABHORRENT TO ME.

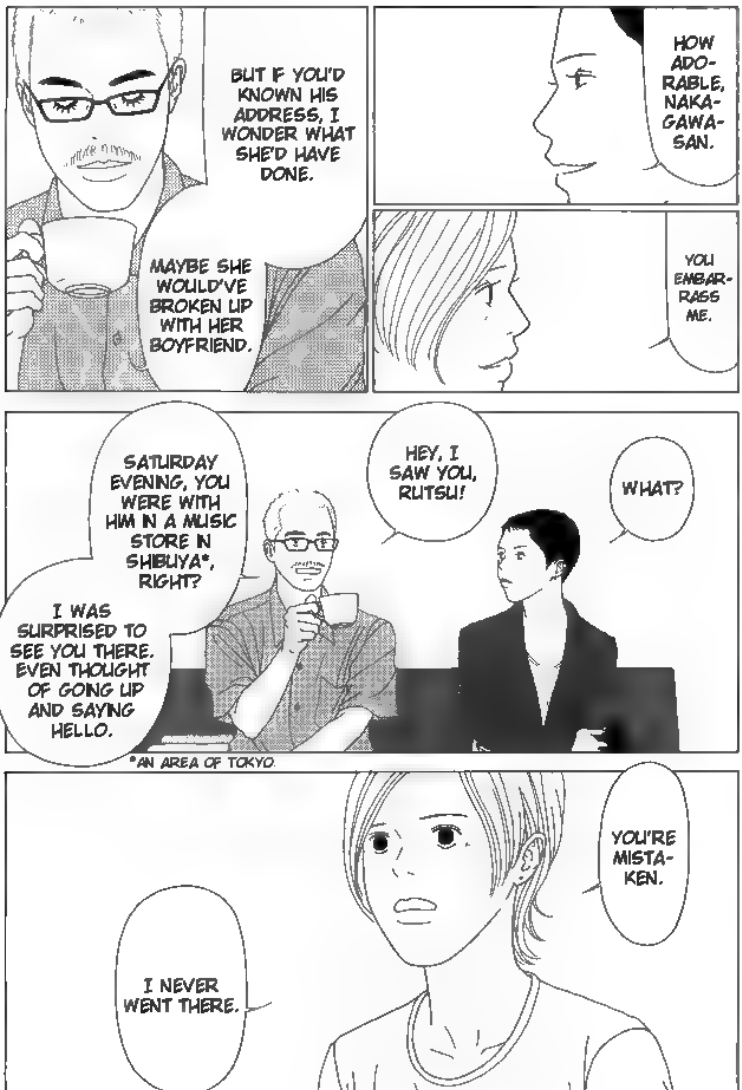
RYUU-JI.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, BUT IT'S HOW I FEEL.
I'LL RETHINK YOUR PROPOSAL,
BUT IF MY ANSWER DOESN'T CHANGE, I WANT YOU TO LET IT GO.
THAT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM JUST TELLING ME YOUR ANSWER ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE.

I WANT YOU.
RU-TSU.
YES?
YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT'S ALL THIS IS ABOUT, RIGHT?
THAT'S REALLY ALL IT IS!

RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
YES?
OH, DEN-SAN?
I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THAT ART EXHIBIT WE TALKED ABOUT BEFORE TODAY'S THE LAST DAY
YES— I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS IN PARTI-CULAR. WHY?
YOU FREE THIS AFTERNOON, RUTSU?
THAT ARTIST HAS INFLUENCED ME QUITE A BIT.
WASN'T IT?
THAT WAS A GOOD EXHIBIT. THERE WERE A LOT OF PIECES I LIKED.
THE COMPOSITION OF ALL OF THEM WAS WONDERFUL.

HUH?
THAT'S YANO-SAN!
OH?
YES. I PUT OFF GOING, AND THEN BEFORE I KNEW IT,
IT WAS CLOSING, SO I RUSHED OVER.
YEAH, WHAT A COINCIDENCE! DID YOU COME TO SEE THE EXHIBIT TOO, YANO-SAN?
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, NAKA-GAWA-SAN.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAN, YANO-SAN.

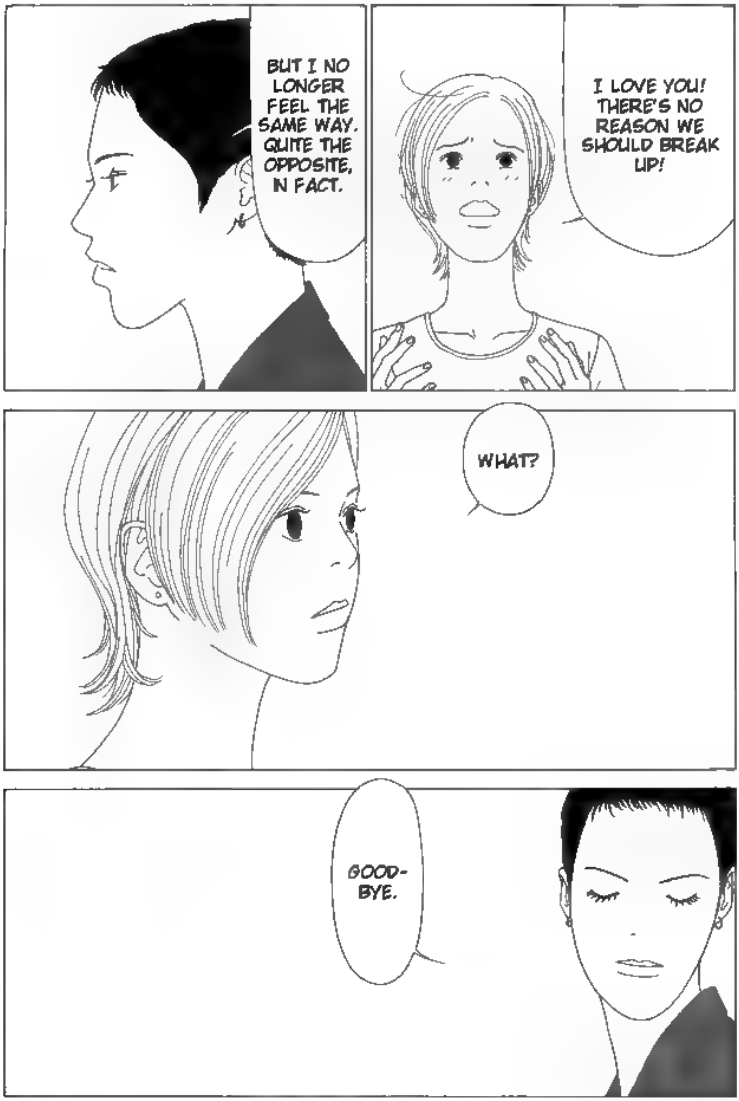
I GAVE RUTSU YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION A WHILE BACK WITHOUT ASKING YOUR PERMISSION. I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.
clink
HERE YOU ARE.
BY THE WAY, YANO-SAN,
YES?
OH, THAT.
IT'S OVER WITH NOW.
WE DON'T NEED TO BRING THAT UP.
THAT ARTIST'S NAME WAS, RUTSU?
OH, YEAH, WHAT DID YOU SAY
SO SHE NEEDED HIS ADDRESS!
HER REAL REASON WAS THAT SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS ARTIST AT FIRST SIGHT AND WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN,
hehe
IS THAT SO?
WHEN SHE CALLED TO ASK YOU ABOUT HIM?
WHAT DID SHE SAY
WELL ...
DEN-SAN, PLEASE!


BUT IF YOU'D KNOWN HIS ADDRESS, I WONDER WHAT SHE'D HAVE DONE.
MAYBE SHE WOULD'VE BROKEN UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
HOW ADO-RABLE, NAKA-GAWA-SAN.
YOU EMBAR-RASS ME.
SATURDAY EVENING, YOU WERE WITH HIM IN A MUSIC STORE IN SHIBUYA*, RIGHT?
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU THERE. EVEN THOUGHT OF GOING UP AND SAYING HELLO.
HEY, I SAW YOU, RUTSU!
WHAT?
*AN AREA OF TOKYO.
I NEVER WENT THERE.
YOU'RE MISTA-KEN.

HE'S TALL, HE HAS GOOD HAIR, AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S AN EXCELLENT EDITOR. BY ANYONE'S STANDARDS, HE'D BE A CREDIT TO YOU.
HE LOOKS LIKE AN ACTOR!
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT. AND WHY DID YOU TELL ME HE WASN'T GOOD-LOOKING?
DEN-SAN!
I SAID A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
OH. SORRY!
HE EDITS FOR A LITERARY MAGAZINE. HE'S IN CHARGE OF HER WORK, ACTUALLY.
AN EDITOR ?
WELL, THE CONVERSATION WASN'T SO GREAT TOWARDS THE END, BUT I'M GLAD TO HAVE SEEN YOU ANYWAY.
YES, IT WAS A PLEA-SURE.
MY APOLOGIES. I WOULD LIKE TO STAY LONGER,
BUT I HAVE A MEETING TO ATTEND NOW.

TA-
MA-
...
TAKE
CARE,
NAKA-
GAWA-
SAN.
HUH!?
RUTSU?
TAMAKI-
SAN.

WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN.
EXPLAIN ?
THAT'S HARDLY NECES-SARY.
HUH?
OUR ASSOCIATION WAS SHORT, BUT I ENJOYED IT.
OUR SEXUAL COMPATIBILITY WAS OUTSTANDING, FOR ONE THING.
MY SOLE HOPE IS THAT YOU'LL MAKE USE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH ME IN YOUR WORK.
WAIT! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
GOOD-BYE, RUTSU.


BUT I NO LONGER FEEL THE SAME WAY. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT.
I LOVE YOU! THERE'S NO REASON WE SHOULD BREAK UP!
WHAT?
GOOD-BYE.

BUT I NO LONGER FEEL THE SAME WAY. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, N FACT.

R R R R
R R R R
beep
YANO SPEAKING
IT'S ME, TAMAKI-SAN.
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE PROPERLY FOR LYING TO YOU. PLEASE LET ME SEE YOU ONE MORE TIME.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO THAT THINGS ARE OVER BETWEEN US NOW, AREN'T THEY?
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU PLEASE DON'T CALL AGAIN
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I LOVE!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH, TAMAKI-SAN!
beep
beep
beep

HER BACK IS
RETREATING

INTO THE
DISTANCE.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 8

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW

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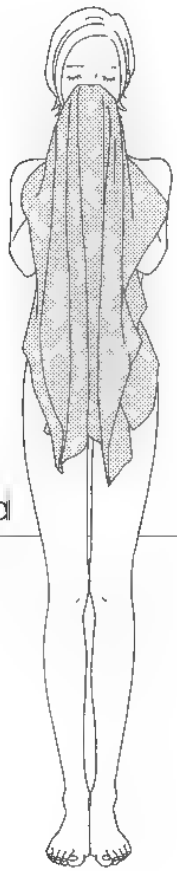
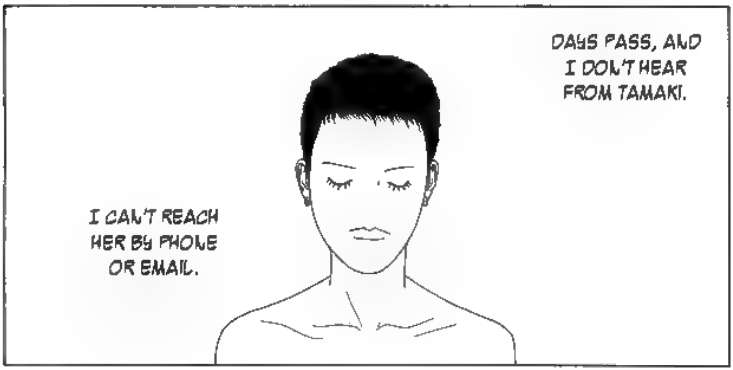
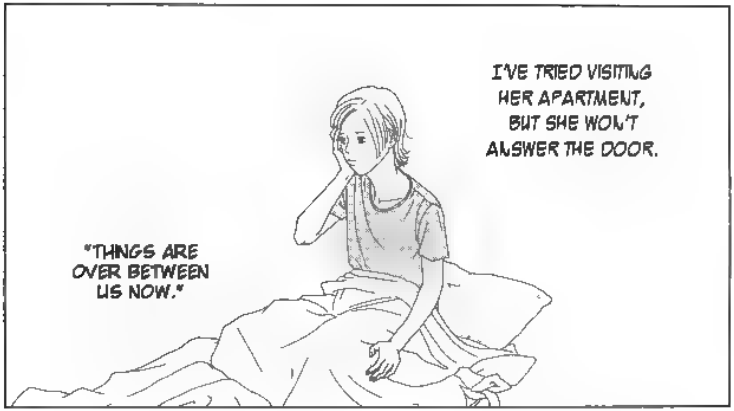
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



Chapter 9 Betrayal





HER VOICE ECHOES IN MY MIND.

I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT. YOU WENT AFTER YANO-SAN, AND WHEN YOU CAME BACK, YOU WERE WHITE AS A SHEET.
I'M SORRY I RAN OFF LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I FIGURED THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU, BUT...
HM?
PLEASE DON'T BE SURPRISED BY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY, DEN-SAN.
HUH?
WE WERE TOGE-THER.
WE WERE IN LOVE.

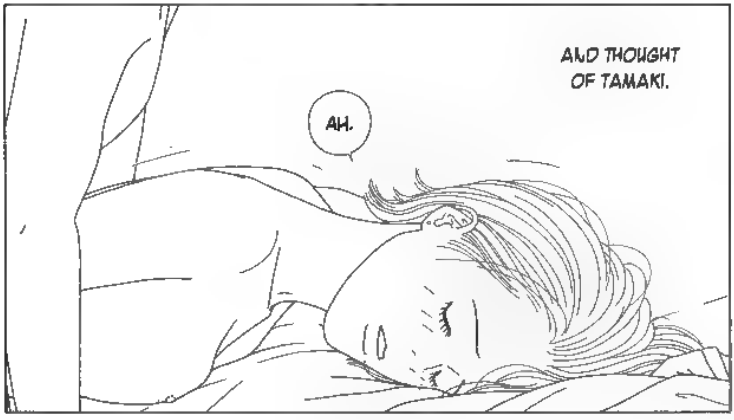
HOLD THE PHONE, RUTSU. HOW THE HELL DID THAT HAPPEN!?
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND AND EVERYTHING!
IN LOVE!? HEY! YOU'RE BOTH WOMEN, YOU KNOW THAT!?
YES.
OHH?
OH!
I LIED TO YANO-SAN. I TOLD HER I'D BROKEN UP WITH HIM.
SO THAT DAY...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S TO BLAME.
SO SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND BECAUSE OF MY STUPID RAMBLING, AND NOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS ON THE ROCKS?

IF YOU REALLY LOVED HER THAT MUCH, WHY DIDN'T YOU BREAK UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND FOR REAL?
WELL ...
EVEN IF I REGRET MY ACTIONS NOW, IT'S TOO LATE.
THAT LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN
COULD ONLY BE TEMPORARY.
WELL, EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES.
AND I BET SOME PART OF YOU WAS THINKING
IT JUST HAPPENED SOONER THAN YOU EXPECTED. RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T BREAK UP WITH HIM.
YOU AND YANO-SAN WOULD HAVE BROKEN UP SOONER OR LATER.

THREE DAYS AFTER THAT, I MET WITH RYUUJI.

WE FIT OUR BODIES TOGETHER IN THAT FAMILIAR PATTERN.

I CLOSED MY EYES



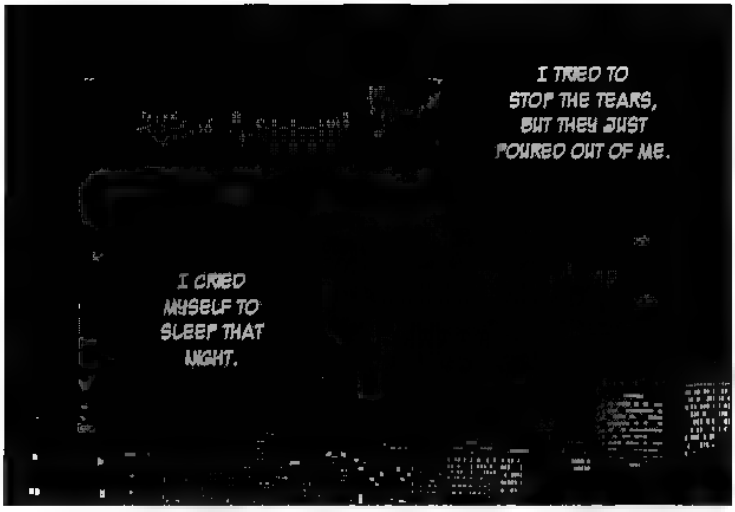
WE NEED TO TALK, RYUUJI.
GET DRESSED.
WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M SORRY. I'VE BETRAYED YOU.
I'VE BEEN MEETING WITH THAT PERSON BEHIND YOUR BACK FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
HUH?

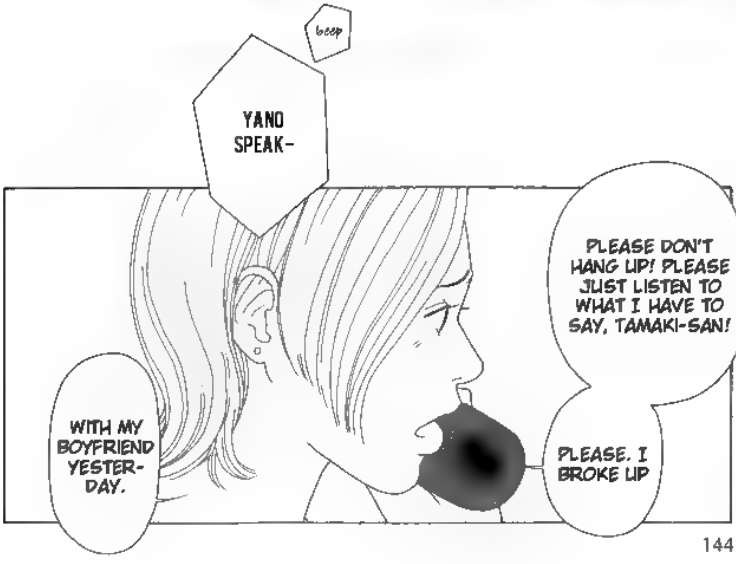
I WANT TO BREAK UP.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU ANYMORE,
BUT IT'S THAT PERSON I'M IN LOVE WITH NOW.
HUH?
IS IT
A MAN?
OR A WO-MAN?
IT'S A WOMAN.

THIS IS JUST LIKE YOUR STORY.
IN YOUR STORY, THE PROTAGONIST CONFESSES:
"I NEVER DEVELOP ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR MEN,"
"NO MATTER WHO I'M WITH"
"OR HOW MANY TIMES WE SLEEP TOGETHER."
WERE YOU WRITING ABOUT YOURSELF?

WHEN YOU WEREN'T IN LOVE WITH ME?
WHY DID YOU GO OUT WITH ME
WHY DID YOU SLEEP WITH ME!?
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU WOULD ALWAYS BE UNREQUITED!?
DID YOU DO IT OUT OF PITY, BECAUSE YOU KNEW

I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE NOW.


I TRIED TO STOP THE TEARS, BUT THEY JUST POURED OUT OF ME.
I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT.


beep
YANO SPEAK-
PLEASE DON'T HANG UP! PLEASE JUST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, TAMAKI-SAN!
WITH MY BOYFRIEND YESTER-DAY.
PLEASE. I BROKE UP

TAMAKI-SAN?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
WELL?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT TO YOURSELF
HUH?
YOU NEED HIM, DON'T YOU?

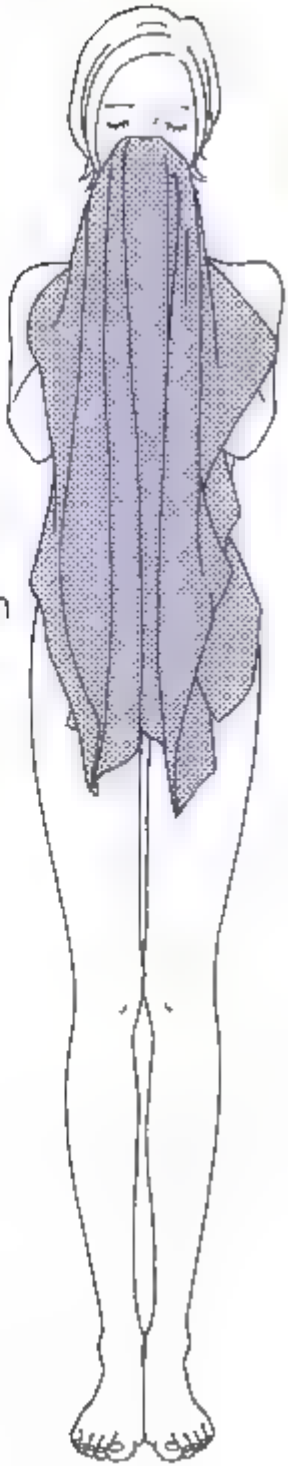
THERE'S A PART OF YOU THAT NEEDS HIM,
THAT CAN'T BE FULFILLED WITHOUT HIM
YOU TRIED TO USE ME TO COMPENSATE FOR THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M NOT BLAMING YOU
YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR LIFE, THEN THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT YOU AND I JUST DON'T FIT TOGETHER
I MET A LESBIAN RECENTLY SHE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN ME
WE REALLY HIT IT OFF

I'VE MOVED ON,
RUTSU
THE SOONER YOU REALIZE THAT, THE BETTER
IF I'D
RUN OVER TO TAMAKI'S PLACE RIGHT THEN AND POUNDED ON THE DOOR,
SHE MIGHT HAVE LET ME IN.

BUT I DIDN'T MOVE FROM THAT SPOT,
BECAUSE RYUUJI WAS THERE.
I DO HAVE
SOME SHRED OF CONSCIENCE LEFT IN ME.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 9



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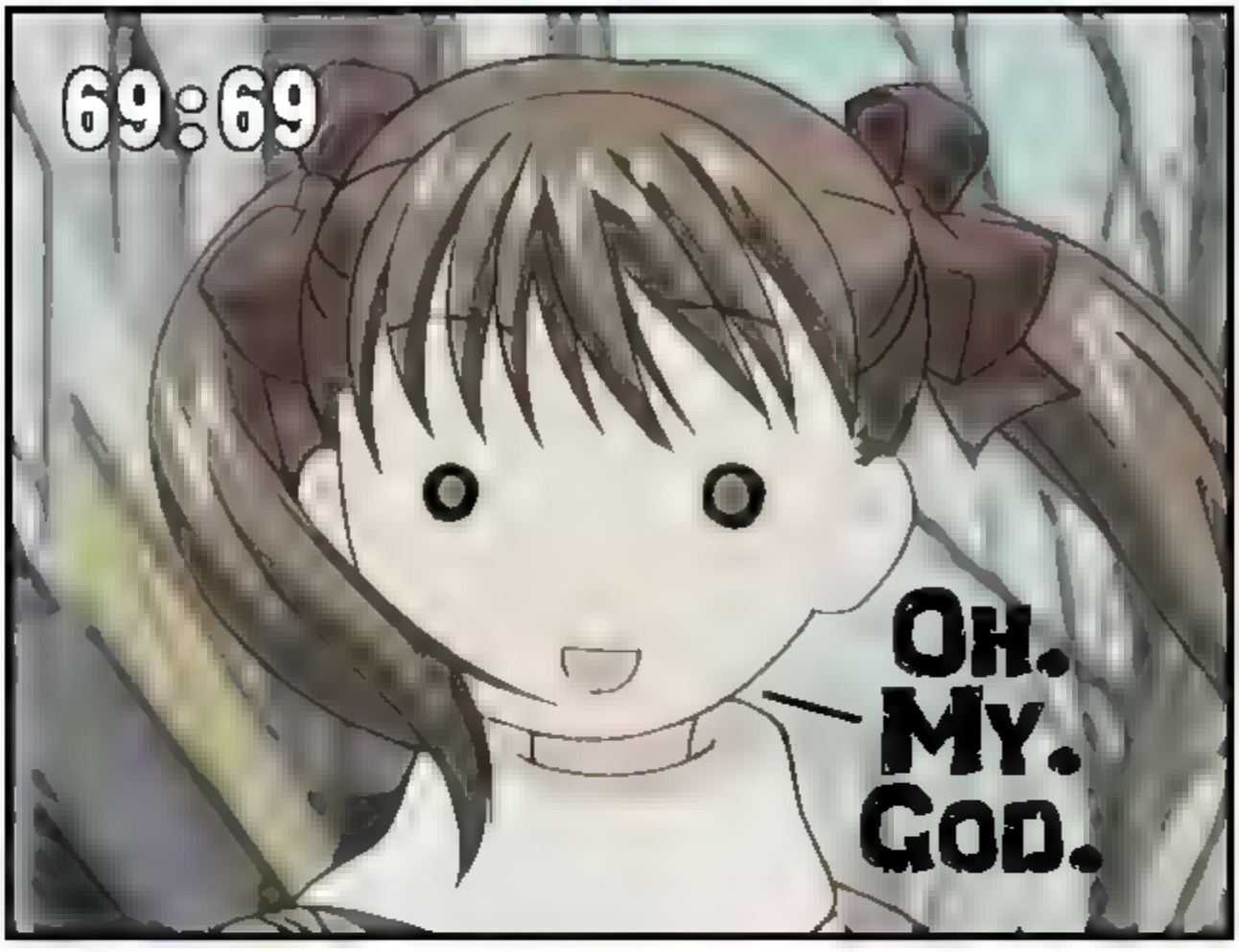
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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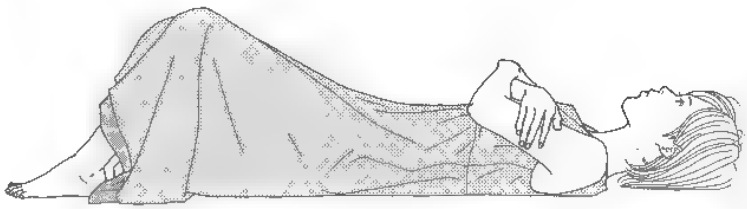
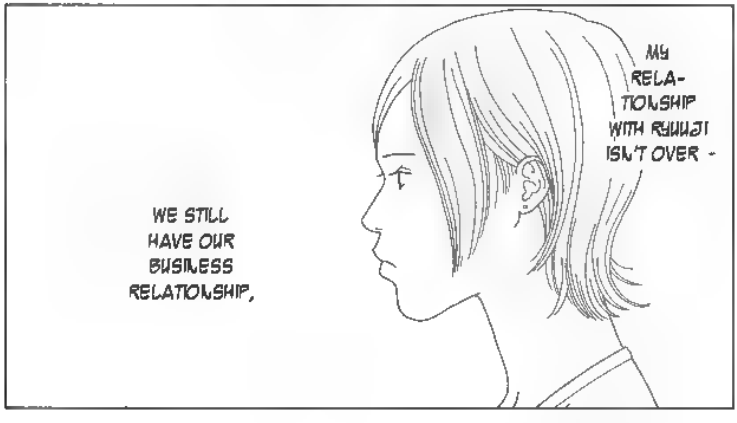


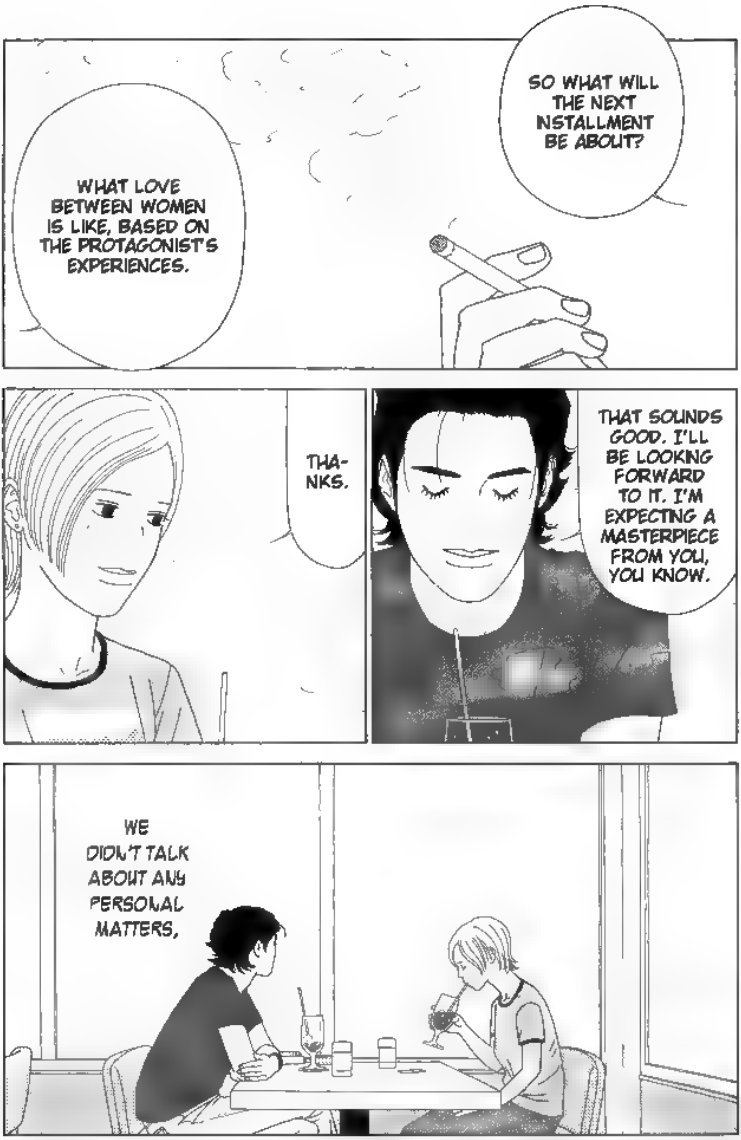
Chapter 10 Embrace

THINGS MIGHT BE OVER BETWEEN ME AND TAMAKI.
I HAVEN'T CALLED HER SINCE THAT NIGHT.


MY RELA-TIONSHIP WITH RYUUJI ISN'T OVER -
WE STILL HAVE OUR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP,
OUR INTERACTION AS WRITER AND EDITOR.

IF YOU WANT, I'LL STEP DOWN AS YOUR EDITOR.
I CAN'T LOOK YOU IN THE EYE.
I THINK...
THAT WOULD BE BEST FOR BOTH OF US.

I'M A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO LET GO OF A PROJECT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORKING ON, THOUGH.
YES, I'D LIKE TO KEEP ON GOING AS WE HAVE BEEN, IF THAT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE.
REALLY ?
PLEASE CONTINUE WORKING WITH ME.
SAME TO YOU.


SO WHAT WILL THE NEXT INSTALLMENT BE ABOUT?
WHAT LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN IS LIKE, BASED ON THE PROTAGONIST'S EXPERIENCES.
THA-NKS.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD. I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. I'M EXPECTING A MASTERPIECE FROM YOU, YOU KNOW.
WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANY PERSONAL MATTERS,

THOUGH THERE
MAY HAVE BEEN

THINGS WE
WANTED TO
SAY TO
EACH OTHER.

WHEN I'M WITH A MAN, I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M BEING COMPLETELY ENGULFED BY HIM.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING,
BUT IT'S NOT A COMFOR-TABLE ONE EITHER.
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ANYONE CAN CHANGE.
IT'S JUST THE WAY I FEEL.

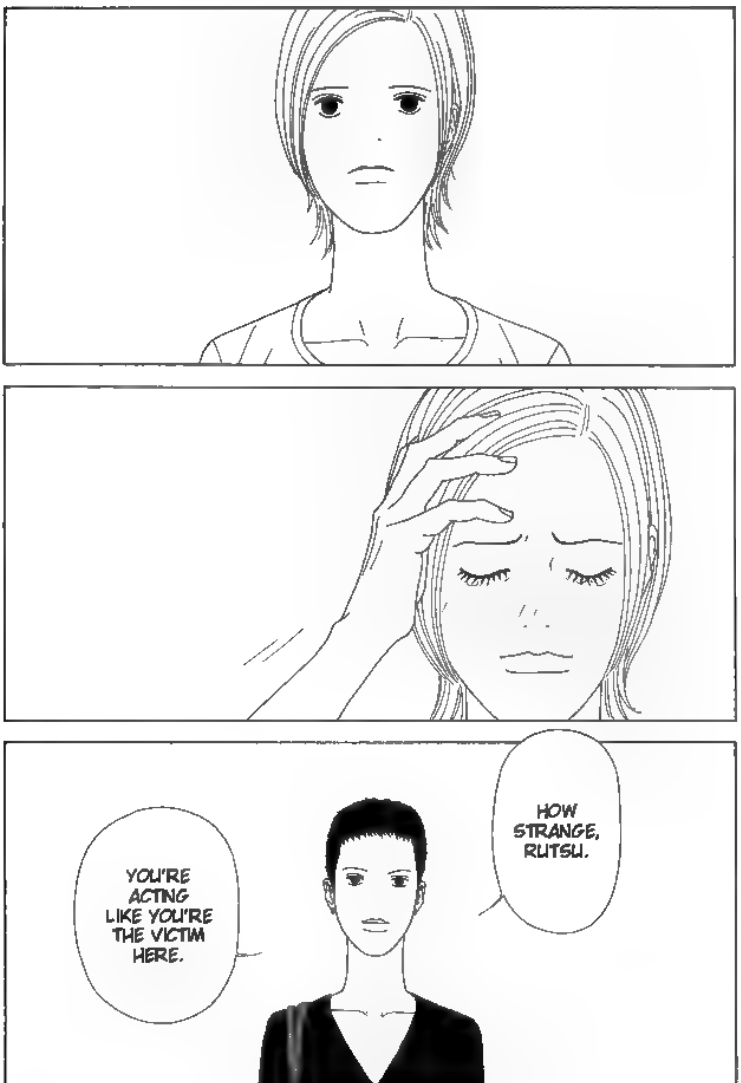
A FUNNY BUG.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT THE HECK IS IT?
IT'S A FUNNY BUG!
DADDY!
A FUNNY BUG?
WHAT?
IT'S A FUNNY BUG, RUTSURN!
HEY, RUTSU, COME TAKE A LOOK.
THERE'S A STRANGE BUG HERE.

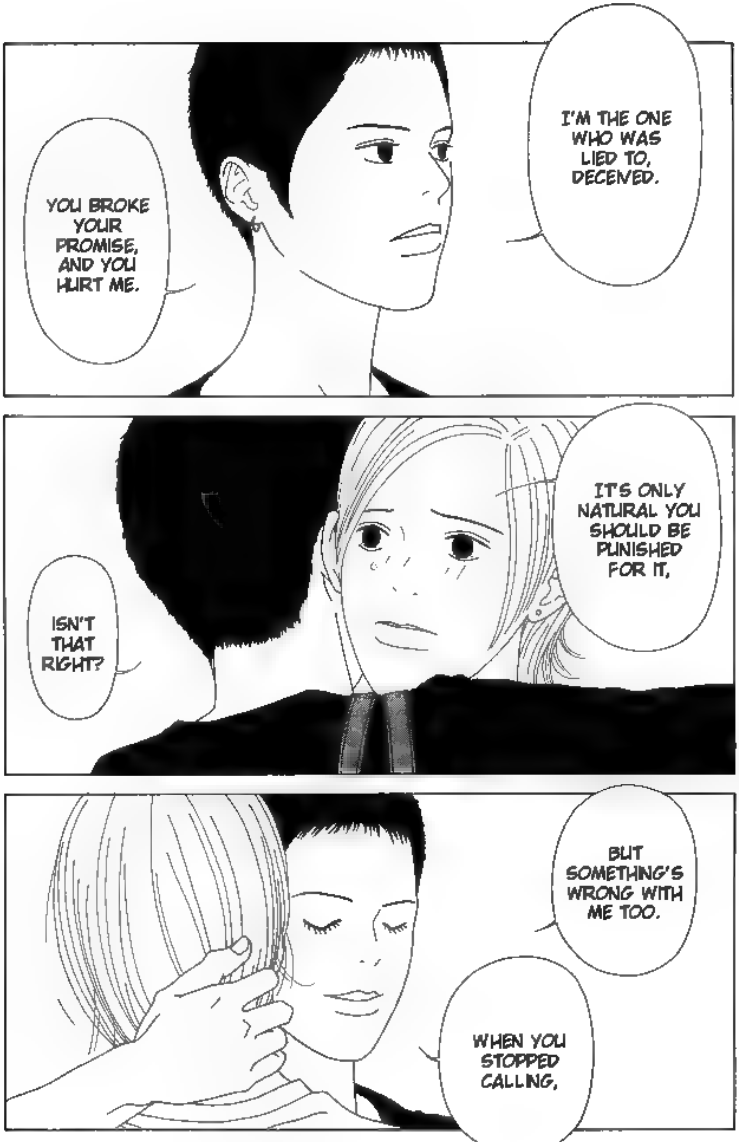
HER RESPONSE WAS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED.

NO.
DID YOU WAIT LONG?

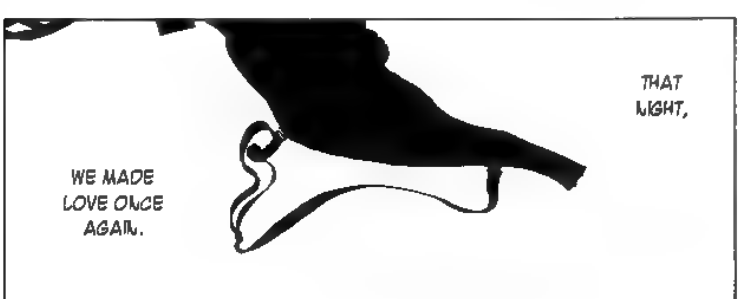
I WANTED TO MEET YOU AND APOLOGIZE PROPERLY.
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE SOME PEACE OF MIND AFTER THIS.
I WANT US TO TRY AGAIN.
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'RE NOT A LESBIAN.
I MADE A DECISION NOT TO DATE NON-LESBIANS,
AND I'M STICKING TO IT.

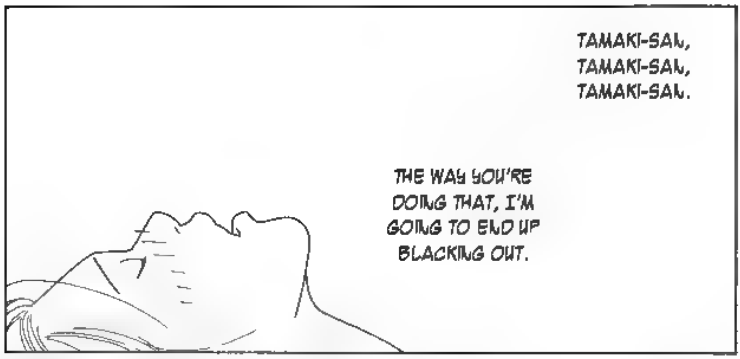
IF SHE'S INTERES-TED,
WE'LL PROBABLY END UP GOING OUT.
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH THAT WOMAN YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY?
DO I HAVE TO GIVE UP ON YOU?
SO YOU'RE REALLY THROUGH WITH ME?
YES.

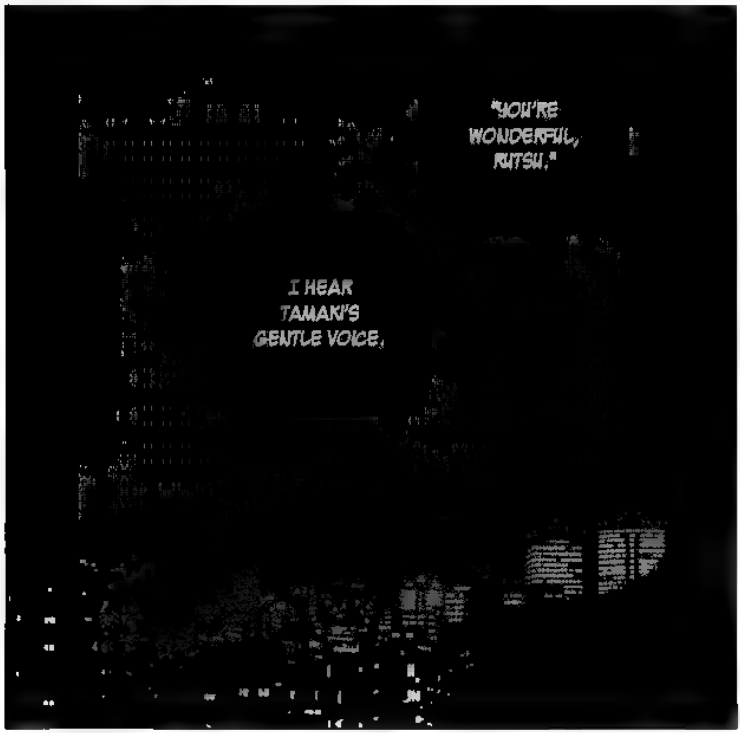

HOW STRANGE, RUTSU.
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE THE VICTIM HERE.


I'M THE ONE WHO WAS LIED TO, DECEIVED.
YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE, AND YOU HURT ME.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR IT,
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME TOO.
WHEN YOU STOPPED CALLING,

I WAS BESIDE MYSELF.


THAT NIGHT,
WE MADE LOVE ONCE AGAIN.


TAMAKI-SAN,
TAMAKI-SAN,
TAMAKI-SAN.
THE WAY YOU'RE DOING THAT, I'M GOING TO END UP BLACKING OUT.


"YOU'RE WONDERFUL, RITSU."
I HEAR TAMAKI'S GENTLE VOICE.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 10

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Translated by Sailor Avalon
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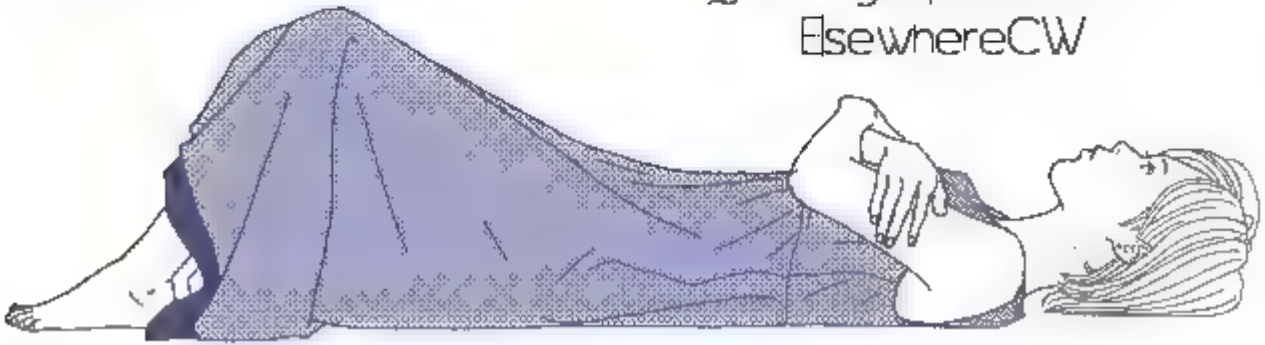
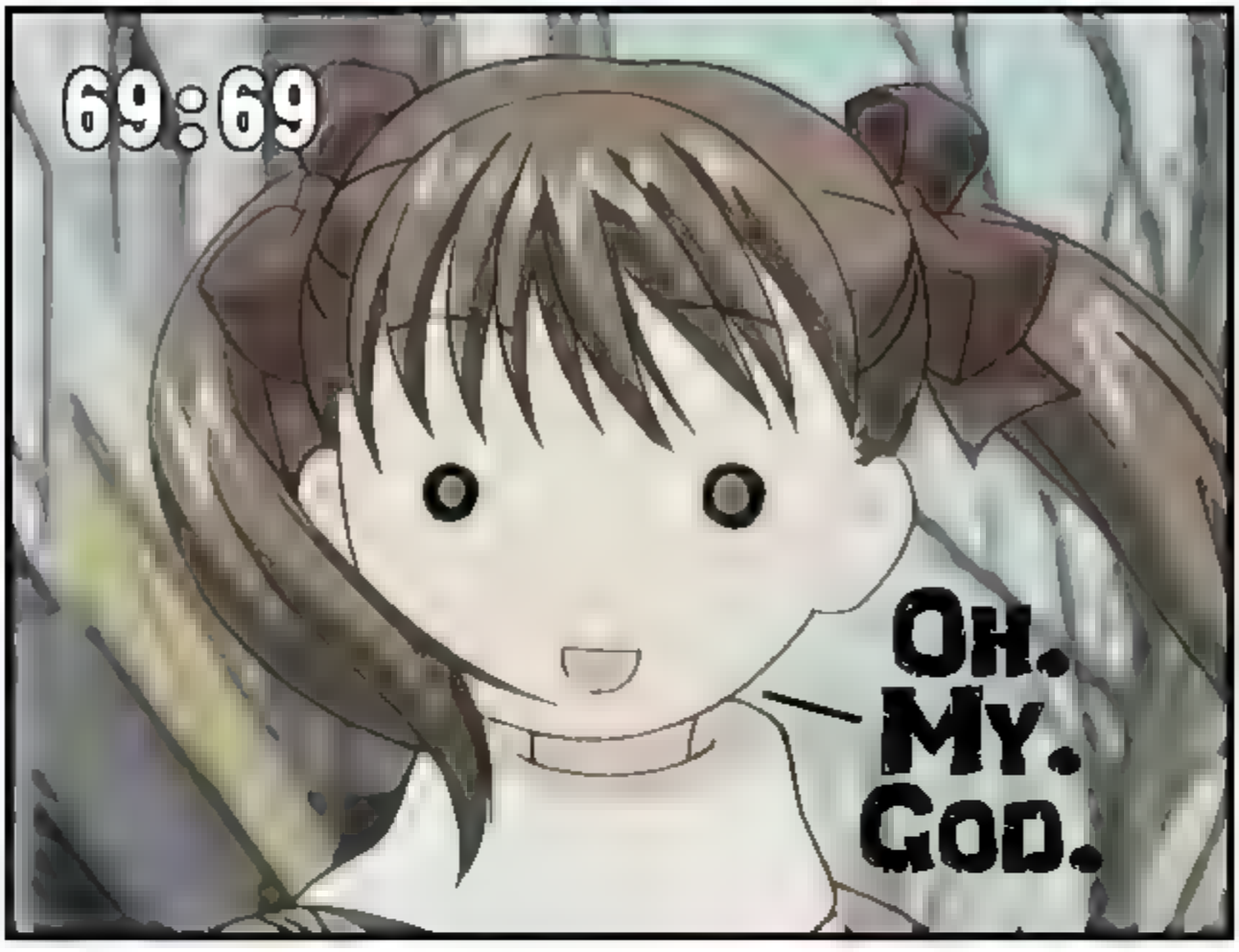


Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you



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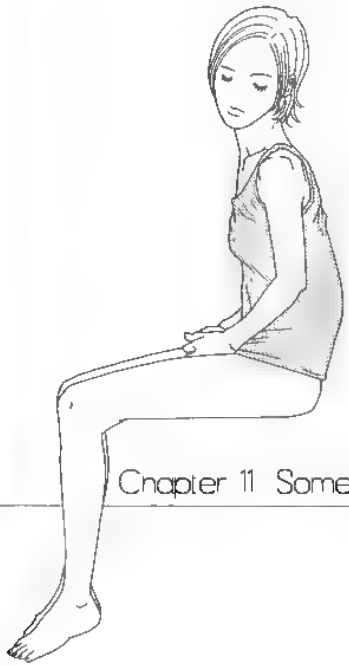
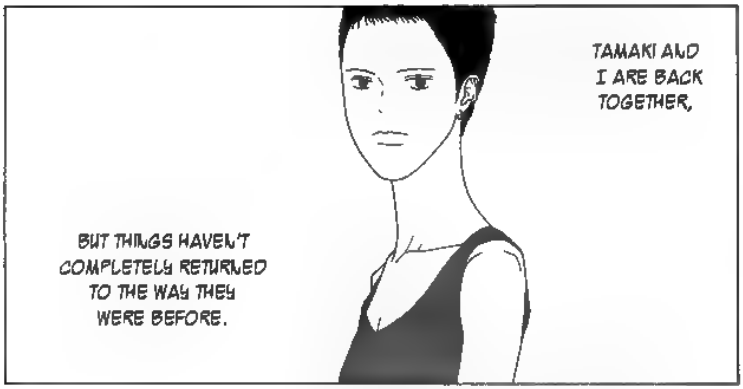
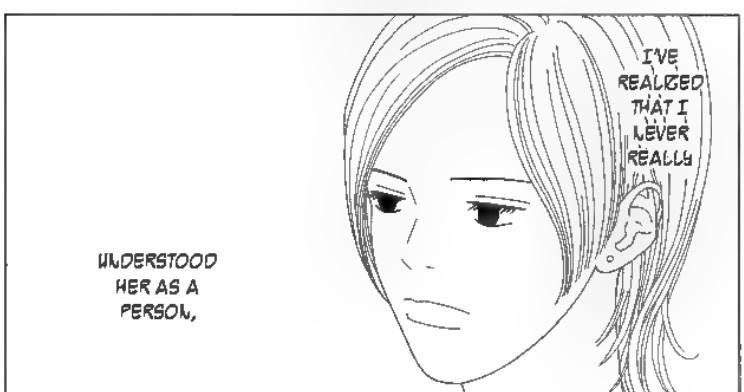


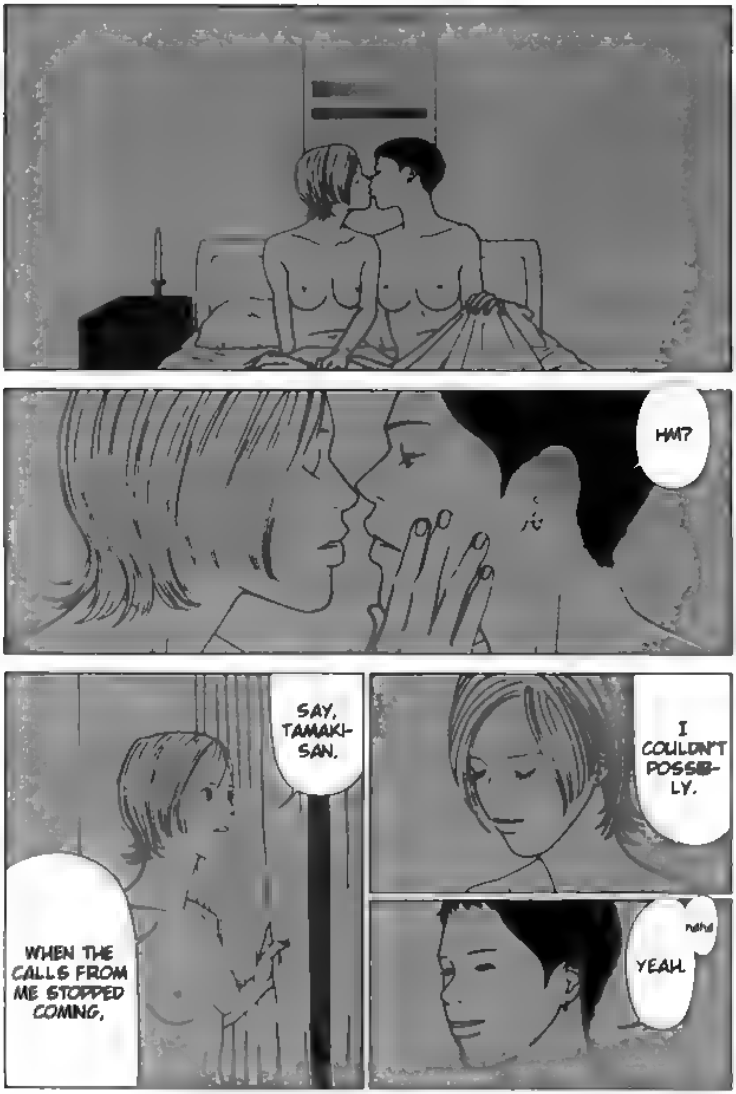
Chapter 11 Something Which Cannot Be Named


TAMAKI AND I ARE BACK TOGETHER,
BUT THINGS HAVEN'T COMPLETELY RETURNED TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE.


I'VE REALIZED THAT I NEVER REALLY
UNDERSTOOD HER AS A PERSON,

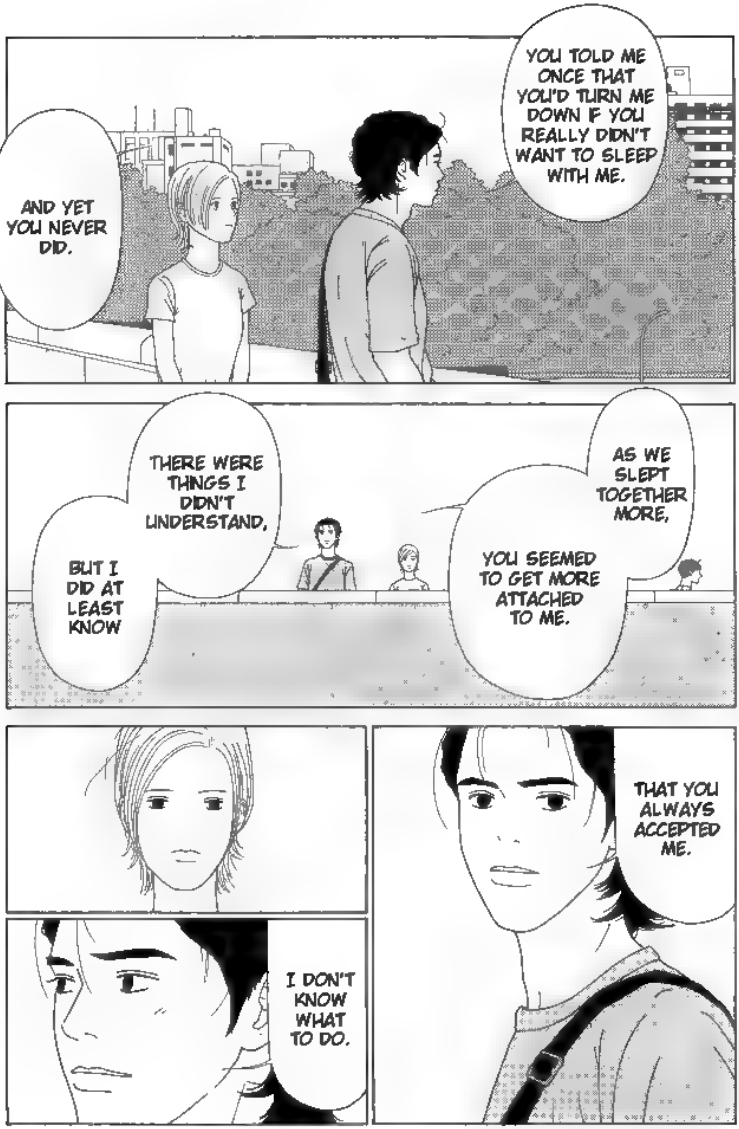
NOT ONE BIT.

REAL-LY?
YOU SLEPT QUITE A LONG TIME.
WERE YOU TIRED?
NO, THAT'S OKAY.
WANT SOME-THING TO DRINK?


HM?
SAY, TAMAKI-SAN,
WHEN THE CALLS FROM ME STOPPED COMING,
I COULDN'T POSSIB-LY.
nahd
YEAH.

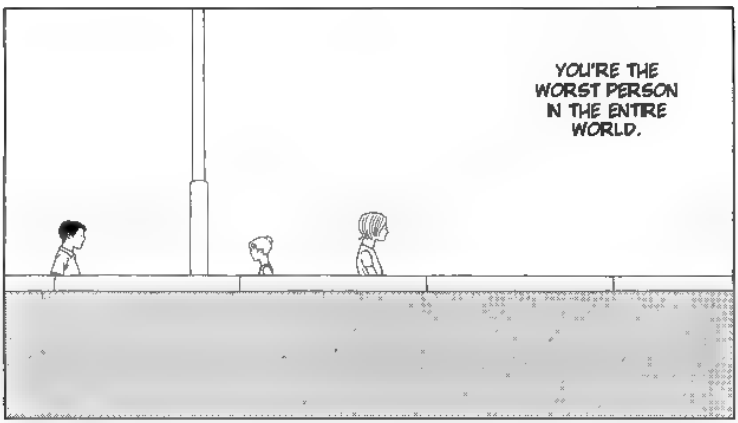
WHAT DID YOU DO?
THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO.
I WON'T CHASE AFTER SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT ME.*
*SHE CITES A PROVERB "SARU MONO WA ... AFTER THOSE WHO RETREATS."
THAT'S A COMPLI-MENT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SO STUB-BORN.
OF COU-RSE.

IT'S OKAY.
WE TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS.
SORRY. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR REASON FOR MEETING YOU TODAY.
I CAN'T MANAGE TO GIVE UP ON YOU.

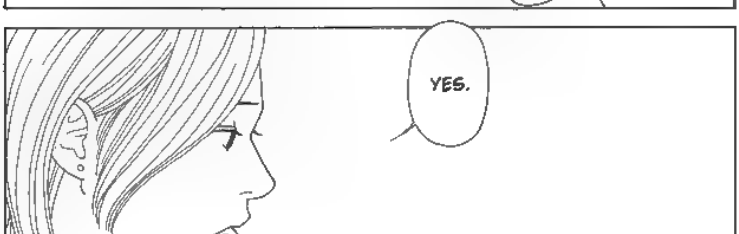

YOU TOLD ME ONCE THAT YOU'D TURN ME DOWN IF YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME.
AND YET YOU NEVER DID.
AS WE SLEPT TOGETHER MORE,
YOU SEEMED TO GET MORE ATTACHED TO ME.
THERE WERE THINGS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND,
BUT I DID AT LEAST KNOW
THAT YOU ALWAYS ACCEPTED ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

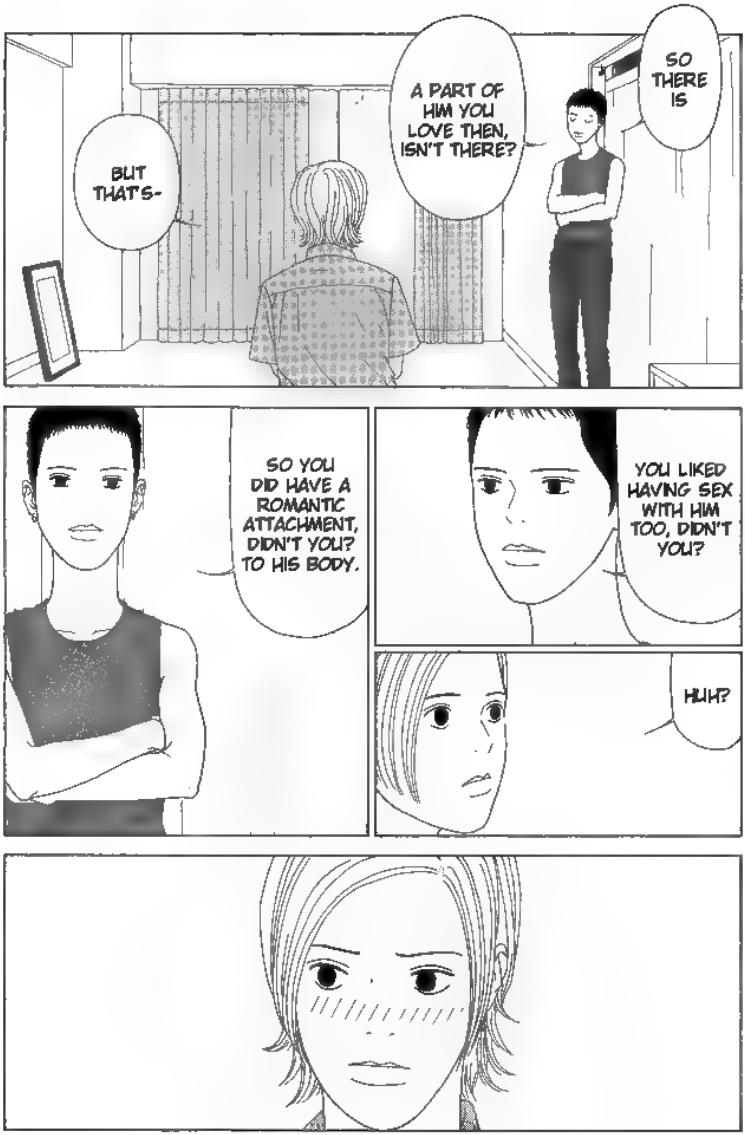
I WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU OVER AND OVER.
I WANT IT SO BADLY, I'D EVEN BE WILLING TO THROW YOU DOWN AND HAVE MY WAY WITH YOU.
RUITSU.
YOU'RE AWFUL.
YOU'RE THE WORST PERSON IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

I'LL CALL YOU IN A WHILE.
IF YOU COULD MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON YOUR STORY BY THEN, IT'D BE APPRECIATED.
OKAY. BYE, AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WRITING.
ALL RIGHT.

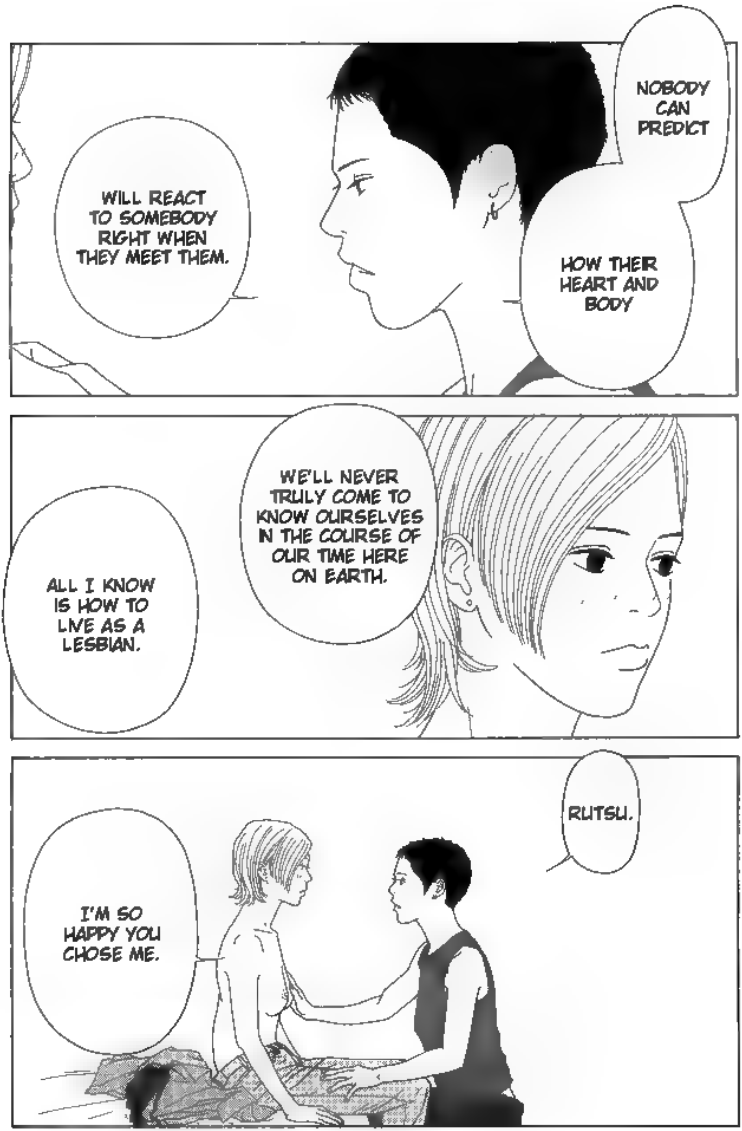

YOU'RE THE WORST PERSON IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

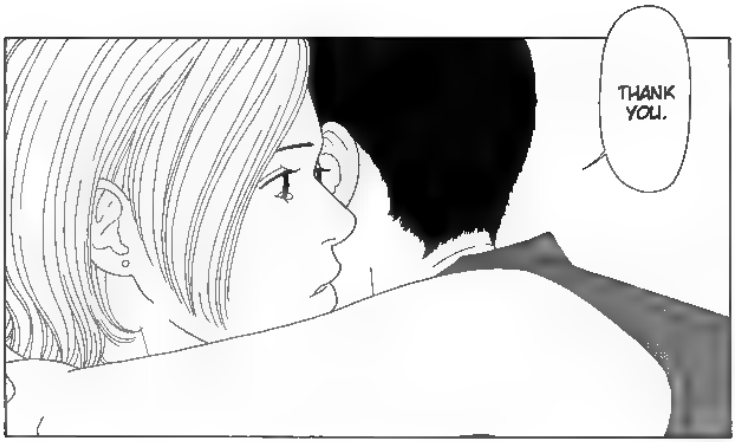
YOU LOVED HIS WRITING, DIDN'T YOU?

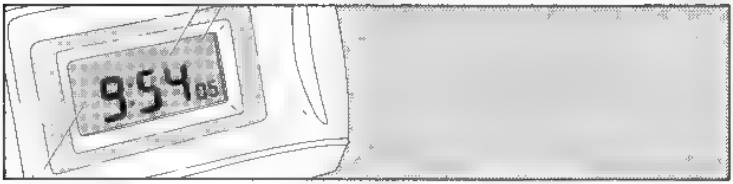

YES.


BUT THAT'S-
A PART OF HIM YOU LOVE THEN, ISN'T THERE?
SO THERE IS
SO YOU DID HAVE A ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT, DIDN'T YOU? TO HIS BODY.
YOU LIKED HAVING SEX WITH HIM TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?

I'M SAYING THAT IF YOU DID HAVE SOME SORT OF ATTACHMENT TO HIM,
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO FEEL GUILTY.
I'M NOT BLAMING YOU.
DIDN'T COINCIDE WITH HIS EXPECTATIONS.
YOU DID RESPOND TO HIM, IN YOUR OWN WAY.
THE PROBLEM WAS THAT YOUR FEELINGS
THAT'S ALL.
TAMAKI-SAN.


NOBODY CAN PREDICT
HOW THEIR HEART AND BODY
WILL REACT TO SOMEBODY RIGHT WHEN THEY MEET THEM.
WE'LL NEVER TRULY COME TO KNOW OURSELVES IN THE COURSE OF OUR TIME HERE ON EARTH.
ALL I KNOW IS HOW TO LIVE AS A LESBIAN.
RUITSU.
I'M SO HAPPY YOU CHOSE ME.


THANK YOU.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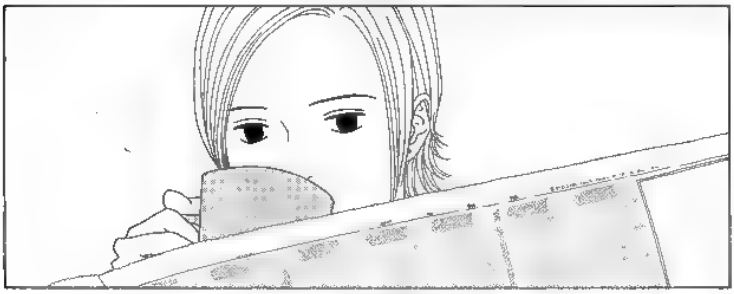
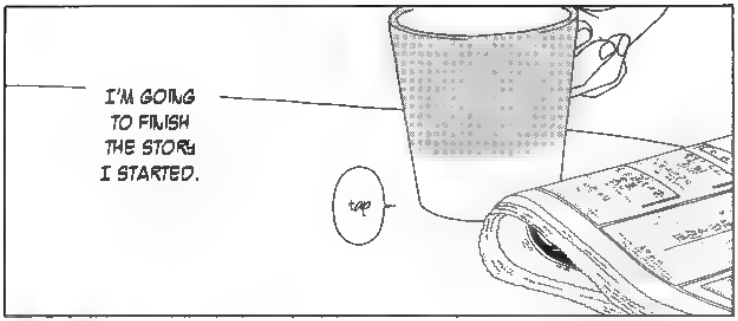
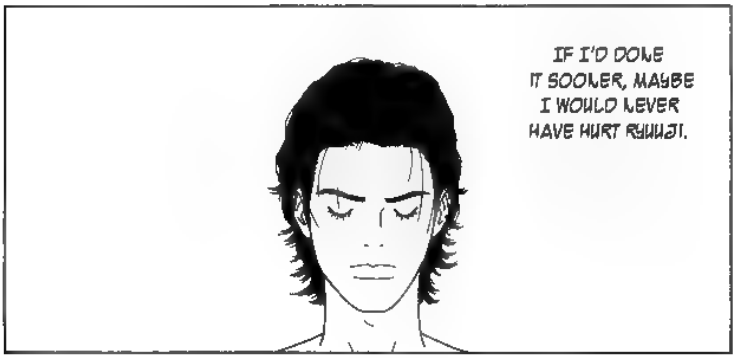
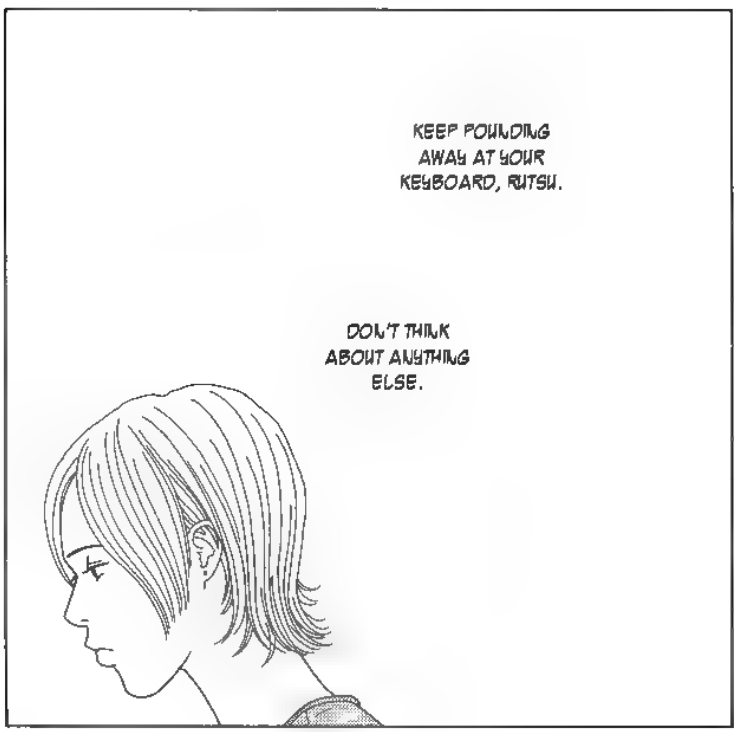



I'M GOING TO FINISH THE STORY I STARTED.
tap

EVEN IF I'D NEVER MET TAMAKI, I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN IT

SO I COULD RETURN TO BEING
THE PERSON I WAS MEANT TO.


IF I'D DONE
IT SOONER, MAYBE
I WOULD NEVER
HAVE HURT RYUUJI.


KEEP POUNDING
AWAY AT YOUR
KEYBOARD, RITSU.
DON'T THINK
ABOUT ANYTHING
ELSE.

Indigo Blue

Chapter 11

Scanned by Sailor Avalon

Translated by Sailor Avalon

Edited by Sailor Avalon

QC'd by Spatvark and ElsewhereCW

A _illicious Project

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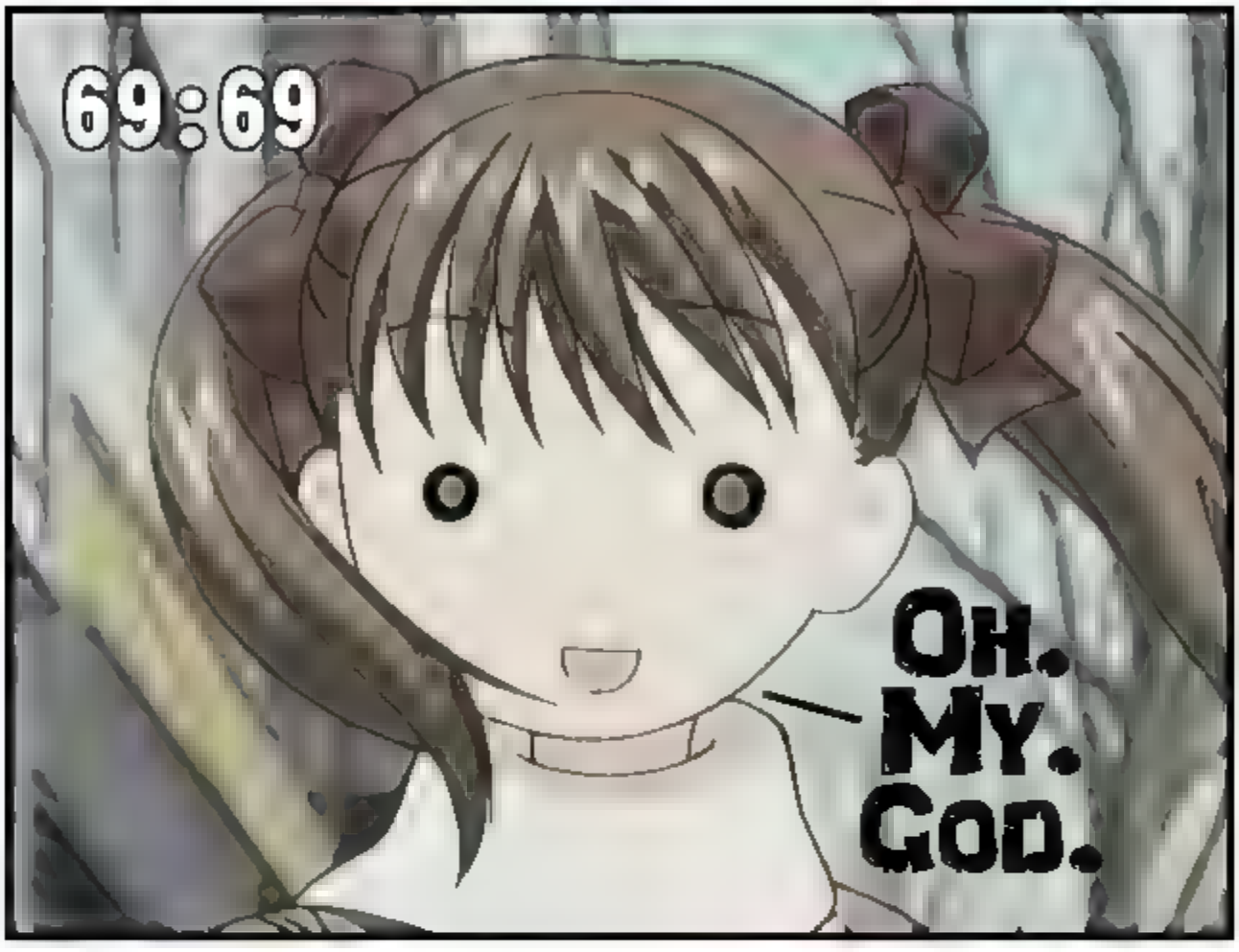
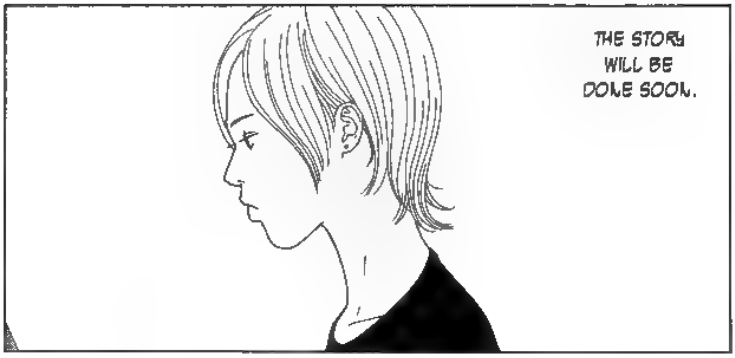
Lilili'cious~may its fragrance encompass you

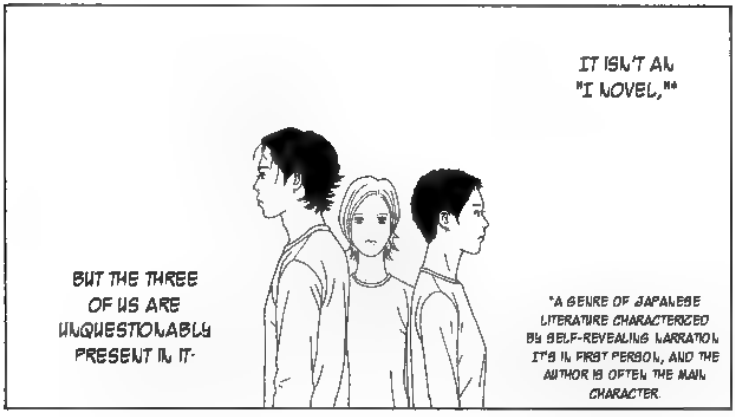


Warning!

The following scanlation contains mature content. By proceeding, you are acknowledging that you have read and understood this warning, are aware of any applicable laws in your place of residence, and take full responsibility for your own conduct.

Chapter 12 Meetings

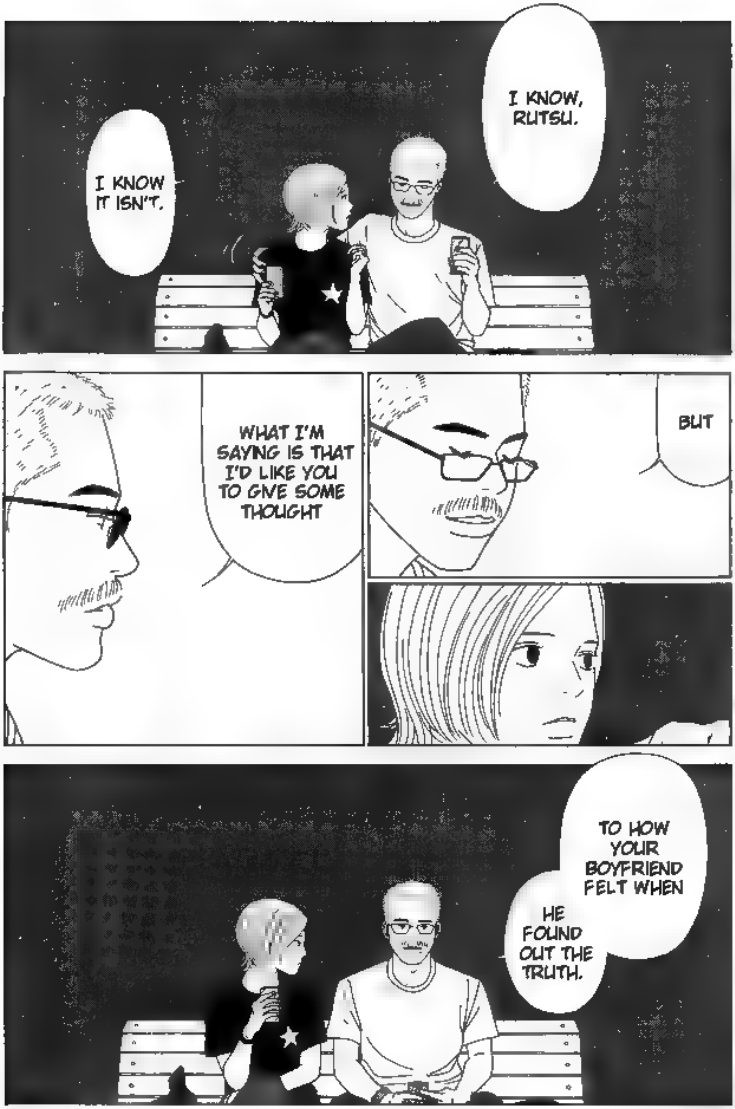




RYUUJI, TAMAKI, AND I.

HEY, TAMAKI-SAN, HOW ABOUT WE GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER?
SURE, THAT WOULD BE NICE.
WHERE?
I'D LIKE TO GO TO EUROPE.
THE BLUE SKY, THE BRIGHT SUN,
THE NICE VIEWS OF LITTLE HILLS THAT'RE FIELDS ON ONE SIDE...
I WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU THERE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
AHAHA.
LET'S LOOK FOR A PLACE LIKE THAT, THEN.

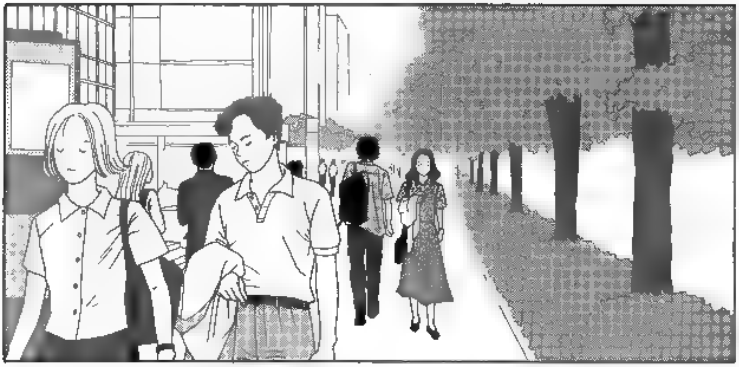
MM.
YOU KNOW, RUTSU,
WHA-AT?
DEN-SAN.
IF MARIO EVER TOLD ME SHE LIKED GIRLS,
IT WOULD BE A REAL SHOCK.
I'D FEEL LIKE SHE WAS DENYING MY MASCULINITY.
OH, NO. HOLD ON, DEN-SAN, THAT'S NOT TRUE.


I KNOW, RUTSU.
I KNOW IT ISN'T.
BUT
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT I'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT
TO HOW YOUR BOYFRIEND FELT WHEN
HE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH.

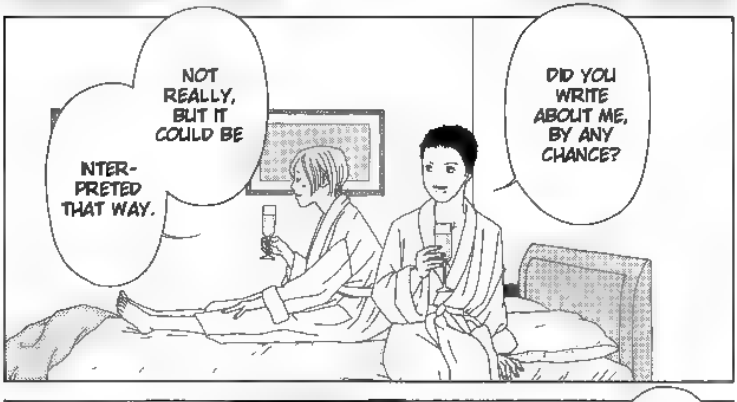
I'M GLAD
I GOT THE CHANCE TO READ A WORK LIKE THIS.
HAVING READ THIS, I NOW UNDER-STAND
HOW WELL THE SUBJECT OF HOMOSEXUALITY IS SUITED TO THE TEMPERAMENT OF YOUR WRITING,
AND THE MOTIFS OF YOUR WORK.
I APOLO-GIZE FOR DECIDING THIS WITHOUT YOUR INPUT,
BUT AS OF TODAY, I WILL BE STEPPING DOWN AS YOUR EDITOR.
NAKA-GAWA-SAN.
YES?

I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO YOU AS WELL.
GOOD WORK. THANK YOU FOR PRODUCING AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF WRITING.
HUH?
THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US—
I'M WRITING A STORY RIGHT NOW.
YES. YOU SHOULD BE WRITING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL BE DOING IN THE FUTURE, BUT I AT LEAST PLAN TO FINISH THIS ONE WORK.

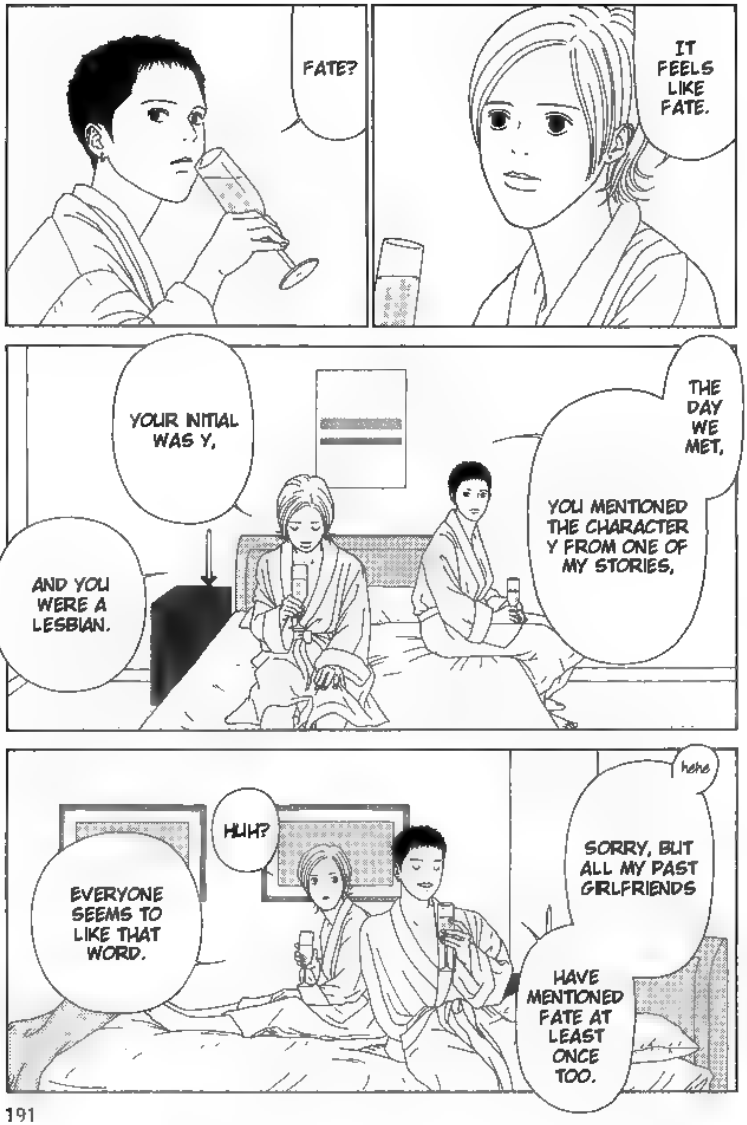
HUH?
I LIKED SLEEPING WITH YOU.
I HONEST-LY
EN-JOYED IT.
THANKS,
RUTSU.



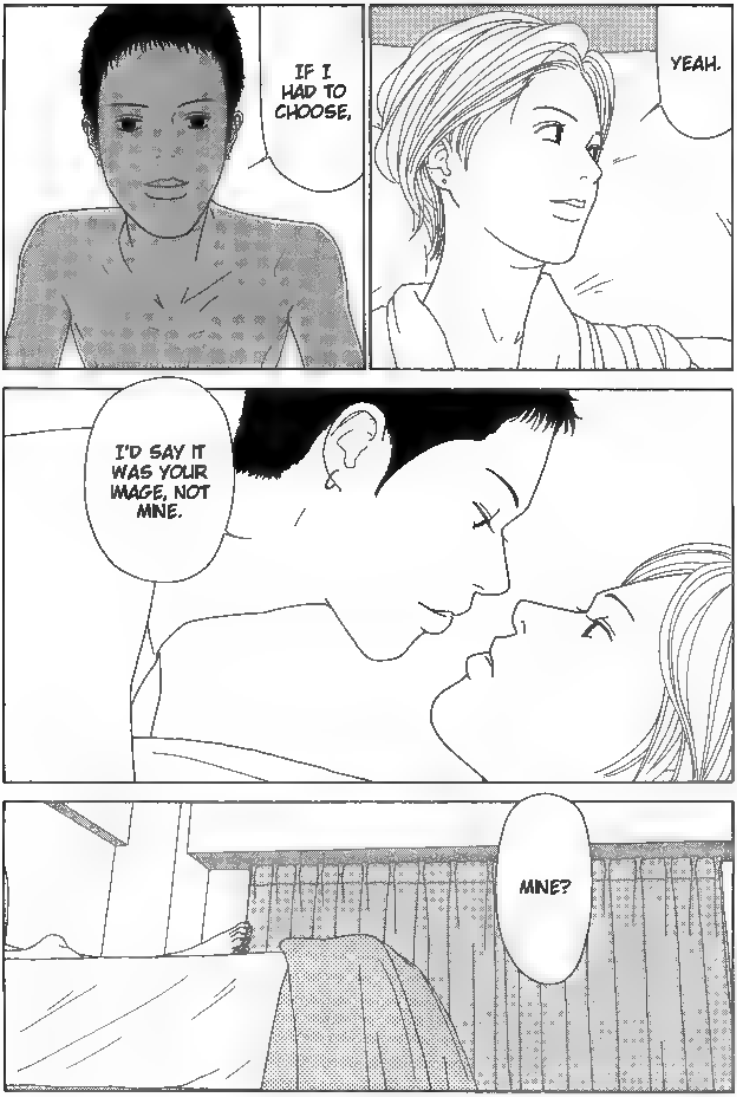
HEY, WHEN IS YOUR STORY COMING OUT IN BOOK FORM?
I WANT TO READ THE PARTS ALL TOGETHER.


DID YOU WRITE ABOUT ME, BY ANY CHANCE?
NOT REALLY, BUT IT COULD BE INTER-PRETED THAT WAY.

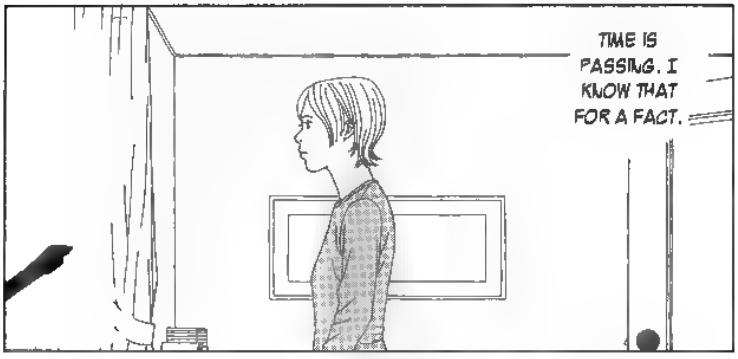
IT'S STRANGE
TO BE SITTING HERE WITH THE NOVELIST NAKAGAWA RUTSU LIKE THIS.
I USED TO JUST BE A READER OF YOUR WORKS.


FATE?
IT FEELS LIKE FATE.
YOUR INITIAL WAS Y,
THE DAY WE MET,
YOU MENTIONED THE CHARACTER Y FROM ONE OF MY STORIES,
AND YOU WERE A LESBIAN.
hehe
HUH?
SORRY, BUT ALL MY PAST GIRLFRIENDS
EVERYONE SEEMS TO LIKE THAT WORD.
HAVE MENTIONED FATE AT LEAST ONCE TOO.

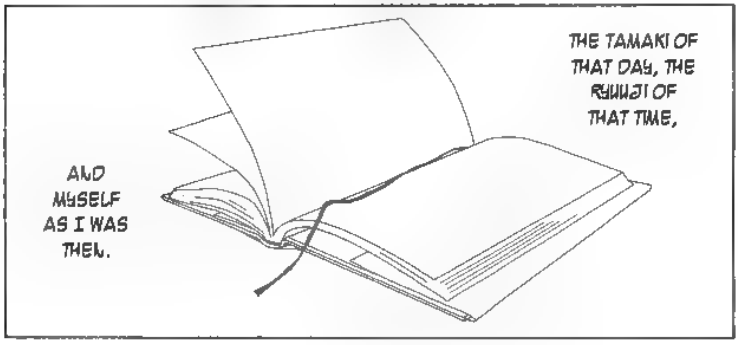
REAL-LY?
I RARELY USE IT.
SOME PART OF ME WAS ALWAYS WAITING
FOR SOMEONE LIKE Y, SOMEONE WHO CARRIED WITH THEM AN AURA OF DEEP INDIGO BLUE.
SO YOUR IMAGE OF ME IS INDIGO BLUE?

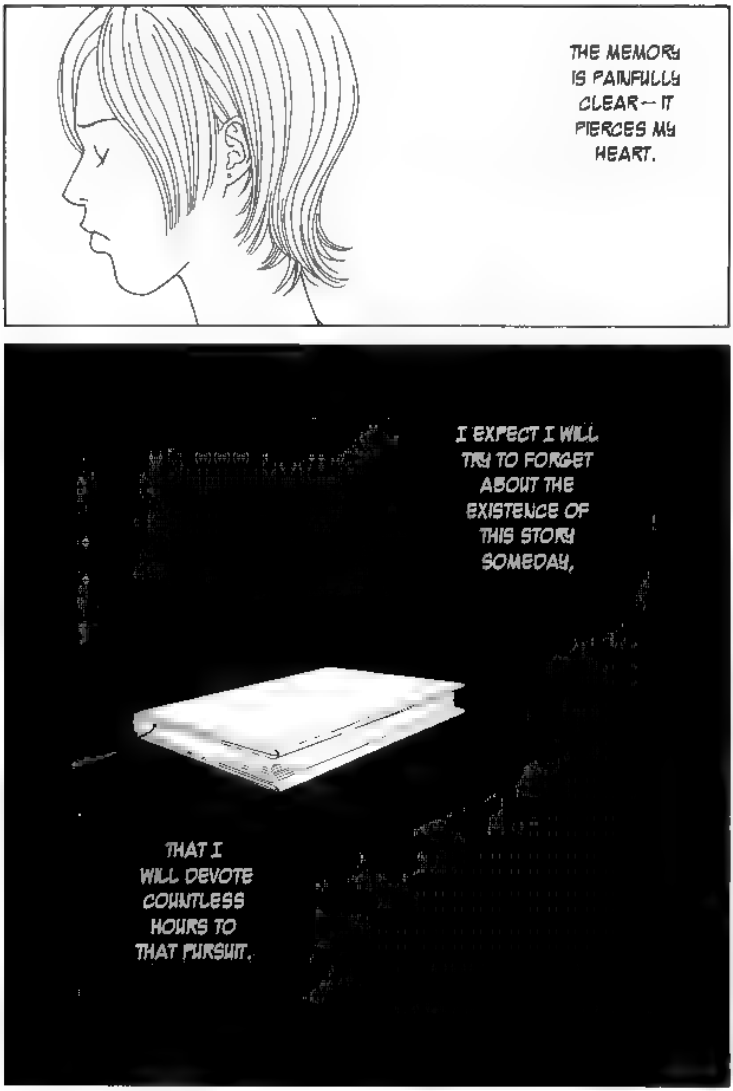

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE,
YEAH.
I'D SAY IT WAS YOUR IMAGE, NOT MINE.
MINE?

MY NAME IS TAKAGI I'LL BE TAKING OVER FOR INUI AS YOUR EDITOR
OH, IS THIS NAKAGAWA-SAN? IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU
I KNOW IT'S A BIT SOON, BUT I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU ABOUT THE BOOK VERSION OF YOUR STORY
WHEN WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR YOU?


TIME IS PASSING. I KNOW THAT FOR A FACT.

BUT WHEN I REREAD MY STORY,
I DRIFT ALONG IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE LINES, AND I MEET THEM.


THE TAMAKI OF THAT DAY, THE RYUUJI OF THAT TIME,
AND MYSELF AS I WAS THEN.


THE MEMORY IS PAINFULLY CLEAR— IT PIERCES MY HEART.
I EXPECT I WILL TRY TO FORGET ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS STORY SOMEDAY,
THAT I WILL DEVOTE COUNTLESS HOURS TO THAT PURSUIT.

the end

First of all, I'm quite pleased that I was able to complete a work like this.

I'd been thinking for quite a while that I needed to write a more mature story, but I kept putting it off, always telling myself I wasn't capable of it yet. When I completed the work before this one, *Love My Life*, the person in charge of my work requested that I do "a story in which the protagonist is an adult woman, and in which men play a larger role," and I realized that the time had come I needed to challenge myself. That was how *Indigo Blue* came into being. I can't be sure whether people will interpret it as a "mature" story, but I'm satisfied just knowing that I've created something I didn't think I could. That makes me happy.

Why is Rutsu attracted to Tamaki, and why isn't she satisfied with her relationship with Ryuuji? That question popped up over and over in my mind as I was drawing *Indigo Blue*. It could also be phrased as "What are Tamaki and Ryuuji to Rutsu?" This question is tied into the questions of why

Afterword

write about love between women and why I couldn't express the concepts I wanted to if I were to write about love between a woman and a man. There may not be any answers to those questions, and yet I can't help pondering them. My manga are the fruits of the self-questioning process.

As always, I'm tremendously grateful to Ban Mariko-san, the editor in charge of my work, for all her help. To Milky Isobe-san, who designed the cover of the book: you did a wonderful job. I was moved. I'd like to take this opportunity to give you a tremendous thank-you. I'm also grateful to all the readers who wrote and encouraged me when *Indigo Blue* was being serialized in *Feel Young* magazine. The messages from adults were particularly encouraging. And to everyone who has read this far, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you've enjoyed my work, I'm truly pleased.

Until we meet again.

October 14, 2002
Yamaji Ebine

Indigo Blue

Chapter 12

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Lilicious~may its fragrance encompass you
#lilicious@irc.rizon.net, http://lilicious.net

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